Ameris Bancorp Form 4 May 18, 2006

### FORM 4

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Expires: 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**OMB APPROVAL** 

3235-0287

January 31,

**OMB** 

Number:

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

Section 16.

subject to

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \* 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading MCDONALD MICHAEL F Issuer Symbol Ameris Bancorp [ABCB] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner X\_ Officer (give title Other (specify P.O. BOX 3668 05/16/2006 below) SVP & Director of Retail Bnkg (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) \_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting MOULTRIE, GA 31776 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I. Non-Derivative Securities Acquired Disposed of or Reneficially O

		, , ,	1 abie	: 1 - Non-De	erivative S	ecuriues Ac	quirea, Disposea o	i, or Beneficial	iy Ownea
	1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.	4. Securit	ies	5. Amount of	6. Ownership	7. Nature of
	Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	nAcquired (A) or		Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect
	(Instr. 3)		any	Code	Disposed	of (D)	Beneficially	(D) or	Beneficial
			(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		Owned	Indirect (I)	Ownership
							Following	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)
Common						(A)	Reported		
							Transaction(s)		
				Code V	Amount	or (D) Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
			Couc v	Amount	(D) THEC	12,861.5487	D		
							,		
	Common						50	I	Spouse

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

#### Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 4

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number op f Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8 E S (1	
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		
Sotck Option Award	\$ 20.76	05/16/2006	A	2,500 (1)	01/31/2011	01/31/2016	Common	2,500		

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

MCDONALD MICHAEL F P.O. BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776

SVP & Director of Retail Bnkg

### **Signatures**

Michael F. McDonald, by Cara P. Horne, Attorney-In-Fact

05/18/2006

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Options issued under Ameris Bancorp Omnibus Stock Ownership and Long-Term Incentive Plan. Up to 20% of the total option grant amount may vest annually based upon the achievement of annual performance benchmarks.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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