

# FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response...	0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <b>HILTON STEVEN J</b>		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>Meritage Homes CORP [MTH]</b>		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>CEO</b>						
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>02/11/2009</b>							
17851 NORTH 85TH STREET, SUITE 300										
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person					
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255										
(City) (State) (Zip)			<b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>							
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)				Price
MTH Common Stock <a href="#">(1)</a> <a href="#">(2)</a>	02/11/2009		A		45,000	A	\$ 0	1,951,204	D	

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.** SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of 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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HILTON STEVEN J 17851 NORTH 85TH STREET SUITE 300 SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255	X		CEO	

## Signatures

/s/ Steven J. Hilton		02/13/2009
<small>Signature of Reporting Person</small>		<small>Date</small>

## 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) Balance represents the grant of restricted stock. The restricted stock will vest in equal increments over the three-year period beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date.

(2) In addition to this restricted stock grant, the reporting person was also granted 67,500 shares of restricted stock on February 11, 2009 which will also vest in equal increments over the three-year period beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date, however, vesting is also contingent upon the achievement of pre-specified performance targets.

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.