

# 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 *<br><b>AX PETER L</b> |         | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>Meritage Homes CORP [MTH]</b> |   | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |   |
| (Last)   | (First) | (Middle)  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><b>02/10/2012</b>                   |   |   |
| 17851 N. 85TH STREET, SUITE 300                                |         |   | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                                    |   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| (Street)   |         |   |   |   |   |
| <b>SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255</b>                                    |         |   |   |   |   |
| (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                |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |       | 36,000  | D  |   |
| MTH COMMON STOCK                | 02/10/2012                           |  | A                              |   | 6,000 (1)   | A          | \$ 0  | 18,000 (2)  | 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 |
| AX PETER L<br>17851 N. 85TH STREET<br>SUITE 300<br>SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

|   |  |            |
|---|--|------------|
| /s/ Hilla Sferruzza, attorney-in-fact for Peter L. Ax |  | 02/13/2012 |
| 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) Represents grant of restricted shares. The shares will fully vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant.
  - (2) Balance includes all unvested restricted stock grants.

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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Larry Seay, C. Timothy White, and Hilla Sferruzza or any one of them signing singly, and with full power of substitution, the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

(1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as a director of Meritage Homes Corporation (the "Company"), Forms 3, 4, and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder;

(2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4, or 5, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the SEC and any stock exchange or similar authority; and

(3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 3rd day of June, 2011.

/s/ Peter Ax  
Peter Ax