

Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D. C. 20549

Schedule 13G
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Meritage Homes Corp.
Common Stock
CUSIP Number 59001A102

Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement: July 31, 2006

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
 Rule 13d-1(c)
 Rule 13d-1(d)

CUSIP No. 59001A102

- 1) Name of reporting person:
Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc.
Tax Identification No.:
52-1268629
- 2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a group:
a) n/a
b) n/a
- 3) SEC use only
- 4) Place of organization:
Maryland

Number of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person with:

- 5) Sole voting power: - 0 -
6) Shared voting power: 2,077,650
7) Sole dispositive power: - 0 -
8) Shared dispositive power: 2,077,650
- 9) Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person:
2,077,650
- 10) Check if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares:
n/a
- 11) Percent of class represented by amount in row (9):
7.80%
- 12) Type of reporting person:
IA, CO

CUSIP No. 59001A102

- 1) Name of reporting person:
LMM LLC
Tax Identification No.:
52-2204753
- 2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a group:
a) n/a
b) n/a
- 3) SEC use only
- 4) Place of organization:
Delaware

Number of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person with:

- 5) Sole voting power: - 0 -
6) Shared voting power: 700,000
7) Sole dispositive power: - 0 -
8) Shared dispositive power: 700,000
- 9) Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person:
700,000
- 10) Check if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares:
n/a
- 11) Percent of class represented by amount in row (9):
2.63%
- 12) Type of reporting person:

CUSIP No. 59001A102

- 1) Name of reporting person:
Legg Mason Special Investment Trust, Inc.
Tax Identification No.:
52-1433357
- 2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a group:
a) n/a
b) n/a
- 3) SEC use only
- 4) Place of organization:
Maryland

Number of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person with:

- 5) Sole voting power: - 0 -
- 6) Shared voting power: 1,800,000
- 7) Sole dispositive power - 0 -
- 8) Shared dispositive power: 1,800,000
- 9) Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person:
1,800,000
- 10) Check if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares:
n/a
- 11) Percent of class represented by amount in row (9):
6.75%
- 12) Type of reporting person:
IV, CO

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- Item 1a) Name of issuer:
Meritage Homes Corp.
 - Item 1b) Address of issuer's principal executive offices:
8501 E. Princess Drive, Suite 290
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255
 - Item 2a) Name of person filing:
Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc.
LMM LLC
 - Item 2b) Address of principal business office:
100 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
 - Item 2c) Citizenship:
Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc.
Maryland Corporation
LMM LLC
Delaware Limited Liability Company
 - Item 2d) Title of class of securities:
Common Stock
 - Item 2e) CUSIP number: 59001A102

- Item 3) If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b), check whether the person filing is a:
 - (a) Broker or dealer under Section 15 of the Act.
 - (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act.
 - (c) Insurance Company as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act.
 - (d) Investment Company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.
 - (e) Investment Adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
 - (f) Employee Benefit Plan, Pension Fund which is subject to ERISA of 1974 or Endowment Funds; see 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(F).
 - (g) Parent holding company, in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G),
 - (h) Group, in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

- Item 4) Ownership:
 - (a) Amount beneficially owned:
2,777,650
 - (b) Percent of Class:
10.43%

- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
 - (i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote:
 - 0 -
 - (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
 - 2,777,650
 - (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
 - 0 -
 - (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
 - 2,777,650

Item 5) Ownership of Five Percent or less of a class:
n/a

Item 6) Ownership of more than Five Percent on behalf of another person:

The interest of one account, Legg Mason Special Investment Trust, Inc. an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and managed by Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc., amounted to 1,800,000 shares or 6.75% of the total shares outstanding.

Item 7) Identification and classification of the subsidiary which acquired the security being reported on by the parent holding company:
n/a

Item 8) Identification and classification of members of the group:
Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc.-investment adviser
LMM LLC - investment adviser

Item 9) Notice of dissolution of group:
n/a

Item 10) Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date - August 9, 2006

Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc.

By _____
Andrew J. Bowden, Senior Vice President

LMM LLC

By _____
Jennifer Murphy, Chief Operations Officer

Exhibit A
Joint Filing Agreement

This Joint Filing Agreement confirms the agreement by and among the undersigned that the Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of (i) each member of the group identified in Item 8 and (ii) the other reporting person(s) identified in Item 6 that may be deemed to beneficially own more than five percent of the issuer's outstanding equity securities

Legg Mason Capital Management, Inc.

By _____

Andrew J. Bowden, Senior Vice President

Legg Mason Special Investment Trust, Inc.

By _____
Gregory T. Merz, Vice President

LMM LLC

By _____
Jennifer Murphy, Chief Operations Officer