

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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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

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * HILTON STEVEN J			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Meritage Homes CORP [MTH]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Co-CEO		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/03/2005					
8501 E. PRINCESS DRIVE, SUITE 290								
(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)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned					

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	01/03/2005		M		17,400	A	\$ 5.5	1,021,097	I	Held by Trust

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)

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						Title
MTH Common Stock	\$ 5.5	01/03/2005		M		3,960		01/12/2002	01/11/2005	MTH Common Stock	3,960	\$ 5.5	231,440	D	
MTH Common Stock	\$ 5.5	01/03/2005		M		4,480		01/12/2003	01/11/2005	MTH Common Stock	4,480	\$ 5.5	226,960	D	
MTH Common Stock	\$ 5.5	01/03/2005		M		4,480		01/12/2004	01/11/2005	MTH Common Stock	4,480	\$ 5.5	222,480	D	
MTH Common Stock	\$ 5.5	01/03/2005		M		4,480		04/12/2004	01/11/2005	MTH Common Stock	4,480	\$ 5.5	218,000	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HILTON STEVEN J 8501 E. PRINCESS DRIVE SUITE 290 SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255	X		Co-CEO	

Signatures

/s/ Steven J. Hilton

01/04/2005

**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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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