

SEVERN BANCORP INC
Form S-3
December 19, 2008

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2008

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SEVERN BANCORP, INC.
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

52-1726127
(I.R.S. employer identification number)

200 Westgate Circle, Suite 200
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-2000
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive
offices)

Alan J. Hyatt
President and Chief Executive Officer
Severn Bancorp, Inc.
200 Westgate Circle, Suite 200
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-2000
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone
number,
including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

Edward L. Lublin, Esquire

Francis E. Dehel, Esquire
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Blank Rome LLP
One Logan Square, 18th & Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Telephone: (215) 569-5500
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Approximate Date of Commencement of Proposed Sale to the Public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box: r

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are being offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box: x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. r

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. r

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box: r

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box: r

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer r

Accelerated filer x

Non-accelerated filer r

Smaller reporting company r

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of Securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price per security	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Warrant to Purchase Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share (1)	556,976	-- (2)	-- (2)	-- (2)
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share (1)	556,976	\$6.30(3)	\$3,508,949	\$138
TOTAL:			\$3,508,949	\$138

(1) This Registration Statement covers (a) a warrant for the purchase of 556,976 shares of common stock with an initial per share exercise price of \$6.30 per share, (b) the 556,976 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of such warrant and (c) such additional number of shares of common stock, of a currently indeterminable amount, as may from time to time become issuable by reason of stock splits, stock dividends and certain anti-dilution

provisions set forth in such warrant, which shares of common stock are registered hereunder pursuant to Rule 416.

(2) Pursuant to Rule 457(g), no separate registration fee is required with respect to the warrant as it is being registered in the same registration statement as the common stock offered pursuant thereto.

(3) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(g) based upon the per share exercise price of the warrant of \$6.30.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS

Subject to Completion

Dated December 19, 2008

SEVERN BANCORP, INC.

Warrant to Purchase 556,976 Share of Common Stock

556,976 Shares of Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the potential resale from time to time by selling securityholders of some or all of a warrant to purchase 556,976 shares of common stock, referred to as the warrant, and any shares of common stock issuable from time to time upon exercise of the warrant. In addition, this prospectus covers the issuance by us of common stock upon the exercise of the warrant by the holders other than the initial selling securityholder. In this prospectus, we refer to the warrant and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant, collectively, as the securities. The warrant and 23,393 shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, referred to as the series B preferred stock, were originally issued by us pursuant to the Letter Agreement dated November 21, 2008, and the related Securities Purchase Agreement – Standard Terms, between us and the United States Department of the Treasury, which we refer to as the initial selling securityholder, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, referred to as the Securities Act.

The initial selling securityholder and its successors, including transferees, which we collectively refer to as the selling securityholders, may offer the securities from time to time directly or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents and in one or more public or private transactions and at fixed prices, prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. If these securities are sold through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, the selling securityholders will be responsible for underwriting discounts or commissions or agents' commissions.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of securities by the selling securityholders. If the warrant is exercised in full for cash, we will receive proceeds of approximately \$3.5 million.

The warrant is not listed on an exchange, and, unless requested by the initial selling securityholder, we do not intend to list the warrant on any exchange.

Our common stock trades on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "SVBI." On December 18, 2008, the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market was \$3.85 per share. You are urged to obtain current market quotations of the common stock.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, referred to as the SEC, using a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling securityholders may, from time to time, offer and sell, in one or more offerings, the securities described in this prospectus. In addition, this prospectus covers the issuance by us of common stock upon the exercise of the warrant by the holders other than the initial selling securityholder.

We may provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of a particular offering by the selling securityholders. The prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in this prospectus. If the information in this prospectus is inconsistent with a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and, if applicable, any prospectus supplement. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not, and any underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it.

We are not offering to sell shares of common stock or seeking offers to buy shares of common stock in any jurisdiction where offers and sales are not permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of the common stock offered hereby. As used in this prospectus, “Severn,” “Bancorp,” “we,” “our,” “ours” and “us” refer to Severn Bancorp, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, except where the context otherwise requires or as otherwise indicated.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements included in this prospectus or in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements (as such term is defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, referred to as the Exchange Act, and the regulations thereunder), which are intended to be covered by the safe harbors created thereby. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- statements contained in “Risk Factors;”
- statements contained in “Business” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K concerning liquidity and business plans;
- statements contained in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and notes to Bancorp’s financial statements in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q concerning the allowance for loan losses, liquidity, capital adequacy requirements, unrealized losses, guarantees, related party transactions and impact of accounting pronouncements;
 - competitive strengths; and
 - statements as to trends or Bancorp’s or management’s beliefs, expectations and opinions.

The words “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “will,” “would,” “could,” “should,” “guidance,” “continue,” “project,” “forecast,” “confident,” and similar expressions are typically used to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are based on assumptions and assessments made by management in light of their experience and their perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors they believe to be appropriate. Any forward-looking statements are not guarantees of Bancorp’s future performance and are subject to risks and uncertainties and may be affected by various factors that may cause actual results,

developments and business decisions to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that may cause actual results, developments and business decisions to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements include the risk factors discussed under the heading “Risk Factors” in Bancorp’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, Bancorp’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008 and the following:

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- changes in general economic and political conditions and by governmental monetary and fiscal policies;
- changes in the economic conditions of the geographic areas in which Bancorp conducts business;
 - changes in interest rates;
- a downturn in the real estate markets in which Bancorp conducts business;
- environmental liabilities with respect to properties Bancorp has title;
 - changes in federal and state regulation;
 - Bancorp's ability to estimate loan losses;
 - competition;
- breaches in security or interruptions in Bancorp's information systems;
 - Bancorp's ability to timely develop and implement technology;
 - Bancorp's ability to retain its management team;
- Bancorp's ability to maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures; and
 - terrorist attacks and threats or actual war.

Bancorp can give no assurance that any of the events anticipated by the forward-looking statements will occur or, if any of them does, what impact they will have on Bancorp's results of operations and financial condition. Bancorp disclaims any intent or obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, regardless of whether new information becomes available, future developments occur or otherwise.

SUMMARY

We are a savings and loan holding company chartered as a corporation in the state of Maryland in 1990. We conduct business through three subsidiaries: Severn Savings Bank, FSB, our principal subsidiary, referred to as the Bank; Louis Hyatt, Inc., which is doing business as Hyatt Commercial, a commercial real estate brokerage and property management company; and SBI Mortgage Company, which holds mortgages that do not meet the underwriting criteria of the Bank, and is the parent company of Crownsville Development Corporation, which is doing business as Annapolis Equity Group, which acquires real estate for syndication and investment purposes.

The Bank has four branches in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, which offer a full range of deposit products, and originate mortgages in its primary market of Anne Arundel County, Maryland and, to a lesser extent, in other parts of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

Our executive and administrative offices are located at 200 Westgate Circle, Suite 200, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 and our telephone number is (410) 260-2000.

The Offering:

Warrants offered in this prospectus.....	Warrant to purchase 556,976 shares of common stock.
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Common stock offered in this prospectus..	556,976 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant.
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Common stock outstanding as of December 18, 2008.....	10,066,679 shares.
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Use of proceeds.....	We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the securities by the selling securityholders. If the warrant is exercised in full for cash, we will receive proceeds of approximately \$3.5 million, which we intend to use for general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds."
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Risk factors.....	The warrant and shares of common stock offered in this prospectus involve a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors."
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Nasdaq Capital Market Symbol for our common stock.....	"SVBI"
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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Please see the risk factors described under the caption “Risk Factors” in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008 as well as any updated risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K or Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q which we may file with the SEC in the future, all of which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement.

Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement. The risks and uncertainties we have described are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our business operations.

If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes or any of these assumptions proves incorrect, our results could differ materially from the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements in this proxy statement/prospectus are current only as of the date on which the statements were made. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which any statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the securities by the selling securityholders. If the warrant is exercised in full for cash, we will receive proceeds of approximately \$3.5 million, which we intend to use for general corporate purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANT TO PURCHASE COMMON STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of the warrant that may be resold by the selling securityholders. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the warrant, a copy of which has been filed with the SEC and is also available upon request from us.

Shares of Common Stock Subject to the Warrant

The warrant is initially exercisable for 556,976 shares of our common stock. If we complete one or more qualified equity offerings, as described below, on or prior to December 31, 2009 that result in our receipt of aggregate gross proceeds of not less than \$23,393,000, which is equal to 100% of the aggregate fixed liquidation amount of \$1,000 per share of our series B preferred stock, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, the number of shares of common stock underlying the warrant then held by the selling securityholders will be reduced by 50% to 278,488 shares. The number of shares subject to the warrant are subject to the further adjustments described below under the heading “—Adjustments to the Warrant.” A “qualified equity offering” is a sale or issuance for cash by us, to persons other than Severn or its subsidiaries after November 21, 2008, of shares of preferred stock, common stock or a combination thereof, that in each case qualify as tier 1 capital of Severn at the time of issuance under the applicable risk-based capital guidelines of the Office of Thrift Supervision, referred to as the OTS. Qualified equity offerings do not include sales or issuances made pursuant to agreements or arrangements entered into, or pursuant to financing plans that were publicly announced, on or prior to October 13, 2008.

Exercise of the Warrant

The initial exercise price applicable to the warrant is \$6.30 per share of common stock for which the warrant may be exercised. The warrant may be exercised at any time on or before November 21, 2018 by surrender of the warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the warrant and the payment of the exercise price for the shares of common stock for which the warrant is being exercised. The exercise price may be paid either by the withholding by Severn of such number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant equal to the value of the aggregate exercise price of the warrant, determined by reference to the market price of our common stock on the trading day on which the warrant is exercised or, if agreed to by us and the warrant holder, by the payment of cash, certified or cashier’s check, or wire transfer, in an amount equal to the aggregate exercise price. The exercise price applicable to the warrant is subject to the further adjustments described below under the heading “—Adjustments to the Warrant.”

Upon exercise of the warrant, certificates for the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise will be issued to the warrant holder. We will not issue fractional shares upon any exercise of the warrant. Instead, the warrant holder will be entitled to a cash payment equal to the market price of our common stock on the last trading day preceding the exercise of the warrant, less the pro-rated exercise price of the warrant, for any fractional shares that would have otherwise been issuable upon exercise of the warrant. We will at all times reserve the aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which the warrant may be exercised. We have listed the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant with the Nasdaq Capital Market.

Rights as a Shareholder

The warrant holder shall have no rights or privileges of the holders of our common stock, including any voting rights, until (and then only to the extent) the warrant has been exercised.

Transferability; Restrictions on Exercise of Warrant

The initial selling securityholder may not transfer a portion of the warrant, and/or exercise the warrant, with respect to more than 278,488 shares of common stock until the earlier of the date on which Severn has received aggregate gross proceeds from a qualified equity offering of at least \$23,393,000 and December 31, 2009. The warrant, and all rights under the warrant, are otherwise transferable and exercisable.

Adjustments to the Warrant

Adjustments in Connection with Stock Splits, Subdivisions, Reclassifications and Combinations. The number of shares for which the warrant may be exercised and the exercise price applicable to the warrant will be proportionately adjusted in the event we pay dividends or make distributions of our common stock, subdivide, combine or reclassify outstanding shares of our common stock.

Anti-dilution Adjustment. Until the earlier of November 21, 2011 and the date the initial selling securityholder no longer holds the warrant (and other than in certain permitted transactions described below), if we issue any shares of common stock (or securities convertible or exercisable into common stock) for less than 90% of the market price of the common stock on the last trading day prior to pricing such shares, then the number of shares of common stock into which the warrant is exercisable and the exercise price will be adjusted. Permitted transactions include issuances:

- as consideration for or to fund the acquisition of businesses and/or related assets;
- in connection with employee benefit plans and compensation related arrangements in the ordinary course and consistent with past practice approved by our board of directors;
- in connection with public or broadly marketed offerings and sales of common stock or convertible securities for cash conducted by us or our affiliates pursuant to registration under the Securities Act, or Rule 144A thereunder on a basis consistent with capital-raising transactions by comparable financial institutions; and
- in connection with the exercise of preemptive rights on terms existing as of November 21, 2008.

Other Distributions. If we declare any dividends or distributions other than a quarterly cash dividend greater than \$0.06 per share, the exercise price of the warrant will be adjusted to reflect such distribution.

Certain Repurchases. If we effect a pro rata repurchase of common stock, both the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the warrant and the exercise price will be adjusted.

Business Combinations. In the event of a merger, consolidation or similar transaction involving Severn and requiring shareholder approval, the warrant holder's right to receive shares of our common stock upon exercise of the warrant shall be converted into the right to exercise the warrant for the consideration that would have been payable to the warrant holder with respect to the shares of common stock for which the warrant may be exercised, as if the warrant had been exercised prior to such merger, consolidation or similar transaction.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

General

We have 20,000,000 shares of authorized common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of which 10,066,679 shares were outstanding as of December 18, 2008.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may, in its discretion, legally declare, subject to the dividend rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Holders of our common stock are also entitled, upon our liquidation, and after claims of creditors and the preferences of any class or series of preferred stock outstanding at the time of liquidation, to receive pro rata our net assets.

Our Series A 8.0% Non-Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and our series B preferred stock have, and any other series of preferred stock upon issuance will have, preference over our common stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets in the event of our liquidation or dissolution. Our preferred stock also has such other preferences as currently, or as may be, fixed by our board of directors.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share that they hold and are vested with all of the voting power except as our board of directors has provided, or may provide in the future, with respect to preferred stock or any other class or series of preferred stock that the board of directors may hereafter authorize. Shares of our common stock have no cumulative voting, subscription, conversion or preemptive rights.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market. Outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Holders of our common stock are not, and will not be, subject to any liability as shareholders.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Registrar and Transfer Company, 10 Commerce Drive, Cranford, New Jersey 07016-3572.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling securityholders and their successors, including their transferees, may sell the securities directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling securityholders or the purchasers of the securities. These discounts, concessions or commissions as to any particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved.

The securities may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve crosses or block transactions, in the following manner:

- on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the warrant or the common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, including, as of the date of this prospectus, the Nasdaq Capital Market in the case of the common stock;
- in the over-the-counter market;
- in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or services or in the over-the-counter market; or
- through the writing of options, whether the options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise.

In addition, any securities that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

In connection with the sale of the securities or otherwise, the selling securityholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, which may in turn engage in short sales of the securities in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling securityholders may also sell short the securities and deliver securities to close out short positions, or loan or pledge the securities to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities.

The aggregate proceeds to the selling securityholders from the sale of the securities will be the purchase price of the securities less discounts and commissions, if any. If the warrant is exercised in full for cash, we will receive proceeds of approximately \$3.5 million, which we intend to use for general corporate purposes.

In effecting sales, broker-dealers or agents engaged by the selling securityholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. Broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions, discounts or concessions from the selling securityholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale.

In offering the securities covered by this prospectus, the selling securityholders and any broker-dealers who execute sales for the selling securityholders may be deemed to be “underwriters” within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. Any profits realized by the selling securityholders and the compensation of any broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. Selling securityholders who are “underwriters” within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act and may be subject to certain statutory and regulatory liabilities, including liabilities imposed pursuant to Sections 11, 12 and 17 of the Securities Act and Rule 10b-5 under the Exchange Act.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, the securities must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states the securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

The anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of securities pursuant to this prospectus and to the activities of the selling securityholders. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling securityholders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, which may include delivery through the facilities of the Nasdaq Capital Market pursuant to Rule 153 under the Securities Act.

At the time a particular offer of securities is made, if required, a prospectus supplement will set forth the number and type of securities being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name of any underwriter, dealer or agent, the purchase price paid by any underwriter, any discount, commission and other item constituting compensation, any discount, commission or concession allowed or reallocated or paid to any dealer, and the proposed selling price to the public.

We do not intend to apply for listing of the warrant on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the warrant in any automated quotation system unless requested by the initial selling shareholder. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market, if any, for the warrant.

We have agreed to indemnify the selling securityholders against certain liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act. We have also agreed, among other things, to register the securities and bear substantially all expenses in connection with the registration of the securities covered by this prospectus.

SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

On November 21, 2008, we issued the securities covered by this prospectus to the United States Department of Treasury, which is the initial selling securityholder under this prospectus, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The initial selling securityholder, or its successors, including transferees, may from time to time offer and sell, pursuant to this prospectus or a supplement to this prospectus, any or all of the securities they own. The securities to be offered under this prospectus for the account of the selling securityholders are:

- a warrant to purchase 556,976 shares of our common stock, representing beneficial ownership of approximately 5.2% of our common stock as of December 18, 2008; and
- 556,976 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant, which shares, if issued, would represent ownership of approximately 5.2% of our common stock as of December 18, 2008.

For purposes of this prospectus, we have assumed that, after completion of the offering, none of the securities covered by this prospectus will be held by the selling securityholders.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. To our knowledge, the initial selling securityholder has sole voting and investment power with respect to the securities.

We do not know when or in what amounts the selling securityholders may offer the securities for sale. The selling securityholders might not sell any or all of the securities offered by this prospectus. Because the selling securityholders may offer all or some of the securities pursuant to this offering, and because currently no sale of any of the securities is subject to any agreements, arrangements or understandings, we cannot estimate the number of the

securities that will be held by the selling securityholders after completion of the offering.

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Other than with respect to the acquisition of the securities, the initial selling securityholder has not had a material relationship with us.

Information about the selling securityholders may change over time and changed information will be set forth in supplements to this prospectus if and when necessary.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the warrant and the common stock offered hereby have been passed upon for us by Blank Rome LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2007, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of Beard Miller Company LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL

Edward L. Lublin, a partner in the law firm of Blank Rome LLP which gave the opinion attached hereto as Exhibit 5.1, owns:

- our subordinated notes in the principal amount of \$50,000;
- 6,250 shares of our Series A 8.0% Non-Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock; and
- 13,878 shares of our common stock.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy materials that we have filed with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information about the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public on the SEC's Internet website at <http://www.sec.gov> or on our website at www.severnbank.com. The information on the Web site listed above is not and should not be considered part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference in this document. This Web site is and is only intended to be an inactive textual reference.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the documents listed below and any filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of common stock under this prospectus; provided, however, that we are not incorporating any information furnished under either Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any current report on Form 8-K. The information incorporated by reference into this prospectus is considered a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the Securities and Exchange Commission, prior to the termination of the offering of common stock under this prospectus, will automatically update and supersede the previously filed information.

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.
- Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for our fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008, and September 30, 2008.
- Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 30, 2008, July 30, 2008, November 18, 2008 and November 24, 2008.
- The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 10 (File No. 000-49731), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 7, 2002, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than exhibits to documents, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the documents that this prospectus incorporates), at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

Severn Bancorp, Inc.
200 Westgate Circle, Suite 200
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Attention: Thomas Bevivino
(410) 260-2000

PART II – INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth the various expenses to be incurred in connection with the sale and distribution of the Securities being registered hereby, all of which will be borne by Severn (except any underwriting discounts and commissions and expenses incurred by the selling securityholders for brokerage, accounting, tax or legal services or any other expenses incurred by the selling securityholders in disposing of the shares). All amounts shown are estimates except the SEC registration fee.

SEC registration fee	\$	138
Legal fees and expenses	\$	10,000
Total expenses	\$	10,138

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Severn's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended, each provide that Severn shall, to the fullest extent permitted under the Maryland General Corporation Law, indemnify its directors and officers. Section 2-418 of the Maryland Code, Corporations and Associations ("Maryland Code"), provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers against liabilities they may incur in such capacities unless it is established that: (a) the director's act or omission was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (i) was committed in bad faith or (ii) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; or (b) the director actually received an improper benefit; or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Indemnification may be against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually incurred by the director in connection with the proceeding. However, if the proceeding was a proceeding by or in the right of Severn, indemnification may not be made in respect of any proceeding in which the director shall have been adjudged liable to Severn. In addition, no indemnity is permitted to a director with respect to any proceeding charging improper personal benefit, whether or not involving action in the director's official capacity, in which the director was adjudged to be liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received.

The Maryland Code provides that a director who has been successful in the defense of a proceeding shall be indemnified against reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding. The provision also permits the advancement of reasonable expenses if the director affirms in writing that in the director's good faith belief, the director has met the applicable standard of conduct necessary for indemnification and undertakes to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that the director has not met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification. Officers, employees and agents of Severn may be indemnified by Severn to the same extent as directors.

The Maryland Code provides that the foregoing provisions shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which a director or officer seeking indemnification may be entitled under, among other things, any bylaw or charter provision, or resolution of stockholders or directors, agreement, or otherwise.

Severn's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws also provide that to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law, no director or officer of Severn shall be personally liable to Severn or its shareholders for money damages.

As permitted by the Maryland Code, Severn currently maintains a \$10.0 million director and officer insurance policy.

Item 16. Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
4.2	Purchase Agreement, dated November 21, 2008, between Bancorp and the United States Department of the Treasury (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.3	Warrant for Purchase of Shares of Common Stock (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference).
5.1	Opinion of Blank Rome LLP.
23.1	Consent of Beard Miller Company LLP.
23.2	Consent of Blank Rome LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page of this registration statement).

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement.
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of this registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

- (i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
 - (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of a registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchase, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and
- (iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Annapolis, State of Maryland, on December 19, 2008.

SEVERN BANCORP, INC.

By: /s/Alan J. Hyatt
 Alan J. Hyatt
 President and Chief Executive Officers

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Alan J. Hyatt and Thomas G. Bevivino, and each of them with the power to act alone, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments, including pre-effective and post-effective amendments to this registration statement, and any additional registration statements to be filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and any other documentation in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

SIGNATURE	TITLE(S)	DATE
/s/Alan J. Hyatt Alan J. Hyatt	Chairman of the Board of Directors, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director	December 19, 2008
/s/S. Scott Kirkley S. Scott Kirkley	Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director	December 19, 2008
/s/Thomas G. Bevivino Thomas G. Bevivino	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	December 19, 2008
/s/Melvin E. Meekins, Jr. Melvin E. Meekins, Jr.	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors	December 19, 2008
/s/Melvin Hyatt Melvin Hyatt	Director	December 19, 2008
/s/Ronald P. Pennington	Director	December 19, 2008

Ronald P. Pennington

/s/T. Theodore Schultz T. Theodore Schultz	Director	December 19, 2008
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/s/Albert W. Shields Albert W. Shields	Director	December 19, 2008
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/s/Louis DiPasquale, Jr. Louis DePasquale, Jr.	Director	December 19, 2008
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/s/Keith Stock Keith Stock	Director	December 19, 2008
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