Ameris Bancorp Form 4 May 18, 2006

## FORM 4

#### OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Expires: January 31, 2005

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

See Instruction 30(II) of the 1(b).

1(0)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * MCDONALD MICHAEL F			2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		
			Ameris Bancorp [ABCB]	(Check all applicable)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction			
P.O. BOX 3668 (Street)			(Month/Day/Year)	Director 10% Owner		
			05/16/2006	X Officer (give title Other (speci below)		
				SVP & Director of Retail Bnkg		
			4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check		
			Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line)		
				_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person		
MOULTRIE, GA 31776				Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

Table 1 - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Dispose							equireu, Disposeu (	or, or beneficially Owned		
	1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.	4. Securit	ies	5. Amount of	6. Ownership	7. Nature of	
	Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	nAcquired	(A) or	Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect		
	(Instr. 3)		any	Code	Disposed of (D)		Beneficially	(D) or	Beneficial	
			(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		Owned	Indirect (I)	Ownership	
							Following	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)	
						(4)	Reported			
						(A)	Transaction(s)			
				Code V	Amount	or (D) Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)			
	Common			Code v	Amount	(D) Flice		D		
	Common						12,861.5487	D		
	Common						50	Ţ	Spouse	

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 I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

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

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number op f 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 E S (1
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Sotck Option Award	\$ 20.76	05/16/2006	A	2,500 (1)	01/31/2011	01/31/2016	Common	2,500	

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

MCDONALD MICHAEL F P.O. BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776

SVP & Director of Retail Bnkg

## **Signatures**

Michael F. McDonald, by Cara P. Horne, Attorney-In-Fact

05/18/2006

\*\*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) Options issued under Ameris Bancorp Omnibus Stock Ownership and Long-Term Incentive Plan. Up to 20% of the total option grant amount may vest annually based upon the achievement of annual performance benchmarks.

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.

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