

PENNINGTON BROOKS III  
 Form 4  
 December 12, 2008

**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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 PENNINGTON BROOKS III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
 [CENT]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/10/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

1280 ATLANTA HIGHWAY

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

MADISON, GA 30650

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	
Common Stock	12/10/2008		M <sup>(1)</sup>		3,000	A	\$ 4.28	
Common Stock	12/10/2008		F <sup>(2)</sup>		2,804	D	\$ 4.74	
Common Stock	12/12/2008		S <sup>(3)</sup>		196	D	\$ 4.41	
Common Stock							49,040	
							I	By L.P. <sup>(4)</sup>
Common Stock							6,938	
							I	By Spouse <sup>(5)</sup>

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Common Stock						7,604	I	By LLC <sup>(6)</sup>
Class A Common Stock	12/10/2008		M <sup>(1)</sup>	6,000	A	\$ 4.26	325,900	D
Class A Common Stock	12/10/2008		F <sup>(2)</sup>	5,653	D	\$ 4.66	320,247	D
Class A Common Stock	12/12/2008		S <sup>(3)</sup>	128	D	\$ 4.35	320,119	D
Class A Common Stock	12/12/2008		S <sup>(3)</sup>	219	D	\$ 4.3	319,900	D
Class A Common Stock						98,080	I	By L.P. <sup>(4)</sup>
Class A Common Stock						13,876	I	By Spouse <sup>(5)</sup>
Class A Common Stock						15,208	I	By LLC <sup>(6)</sup>

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.**

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(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. D S (I)	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
	\$ 4.28	12/10/2008		M	3,000	08/02/2007	08/02/2010		3,000

Stock Option (right to buy)									Common Stock
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 4.26	12/10/2008	M	6,000	08/02/2007	08/02/2010	Class A Common Stock	6,000	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PENNINGTON BROOKS III 1280 ATLANTA HIGHWAY MADISON, GA 30650	X			

## Signatures

/s/ Brooks	12/12/2008
Pennington III	
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

## 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 exercised through sales plan pursuant to Rule 10b-5-1(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.  
 Shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price and withholding tax liability incurred upon the above-reported exercise of options. The amount of shares withheld is based on the respective average of the high and low sales price on the date of exercise.
  - (2)
  - (3) Sale effected under sales plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.  
 By BPCB Partners L.P. The general managing partner of BPCB Partners L.P. is BPCB Management Company LLC ("BPCBLLC") and
  - (4) Mr. Pennington is the sole member of BPCBLLC. Mr. Pennington disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
  - (5) Mr. Pennington disclaims beneficial ownership of 6,938 shares of the Issuer's Common Stock owned by his spouse and 13,876 shares of the Issuer's Class A Common Stock owned by his spouse.  
 By Pennington Management Company II, LLC, in which Mr. Pennington has an ownership interest. Mr. Pennington is the President of
  - (6) Pennington Management Company II, LLC. Mr. Pennington disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

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.