

HILTON STEVEN J  
Form 4  
February 13, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**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 \*  
**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)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
17851 N. 85TH STREET, SUITE 300

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/10/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Chief Executive Officer

(Street)  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255

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

(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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| MTH COMMON STOCK                | 02/10/2012                           |  | A                              | (A) or (D)<br>V Amount Price<br>18,750<br>(1) (2)                 | A \$ 0 52,500 (3)   | D  |   |
| MTH COMMON STOCK                | 02/11/2012                           |  | A                              | (A) or (D)<br>V Amount Price<br>11,250<br>(4)                     | A \$ 0 1,820,712 (5)  | I  | HELD IN TRUST   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| HILTON STEVEN J<br>17851 N. 85TH STREET<br>SUITE 300<br>SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255 |               |           | Chief Executive Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Hilla Sferruzza, attorney-in-fact for Steven J. Hilton  
Date: 02/13/2012

\_\_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) Represents grant of restricted shares. The shares will fully vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant.  
In addition to this restricted stock grant, Mr. Hilton also received a grant of 18,750 shares of restricted stock on 2/10/2012 that fully vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant; however, vesting is also contingent upon the achievement of pre-specified performance targets.
- (2) Balance represents restricted shares not vested but does not include 60,000 shares of restricted stock with vesting contingent upon the achievement of pre-specified performance targets.
- (3) Represents vesting of restricted stock contingent upon the achievement of pre-specified performance goals. An additional 11,250 shares were forfeited as the performance goals were not obtained.
- (4) Balance reflects all other holdings, including restricted shares that have vested.

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