FIRST MERCHANTS CORP

Form 4 January 05, 2009

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

3235-0287 Number:

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5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

1(b).

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

(State)

GORA JO ANN M Issuer Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP (Check all applicable) [FRME] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 200 EAST JACKSON STREET 12/31/2008

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

> Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

MUNCIE, IN 47305

(City) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of 3. Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Beneficially Beneficial Disposed of (D) (D) or (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned Indirect (I) Ownership (Instr. 8) Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code Amount (D) Price Common

719 12/31/2008 Α 225 Α \$0 D Stock (1)

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

Persons who respond to the collection of **SEC 1474** information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exerc		7. Titl		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Transact Code (Instr. 8)	orNumber of Derivativ Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	:		Amou Under Securi (Instr.	lying	Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
reporting 6 wher reduces	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
GORA JO ANN M 200 EAST JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305	X						

Signatures

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 01/05/2009

**Signature of Reporting Person 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) Non-employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy) 4,628 shares

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.

Date

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