FREDS INC Form 3 March 03, 2016

## FORM 3

(Print or Type Responses)

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Expires: January 31, 2005

Estimated average burden hours per

response...

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person \* Statement FREDS INC [FRED] A Gardner Mary Lou (Month/Day/Year) 02/22/2016 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director \_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting \_X\_\_ Officer Other Person MEMPHIS, TNÂ 38118 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One **SVP Strategy** Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) **Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned** 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Ownership (Instr. 4) Ownership (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Class A Common Stock (1)  $7,210^{(1)}$ Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of

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information contained in this form are not

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security		4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			(Instr. 4)		Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	Derivative	Security:	
					Security	Direct (D)	
						or Indirect	

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Stock

Options on Class A
Common Stock (2)

Class A

Common Stock (2)

Shares

(I)
(Instr. 5)

Class A

Common 50,633 \$ 13.87 D Â

#### **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Gardner Mary Lou

4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD Â Â Â SVP Strategy Â

MEMPHIS, TNÂ 38118

## **Signatures**

Jerry Shore by power of attorney 03/03/2016

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Employee granted 7210 shares of restricted stock which vests ratably over four years commencing on the second anniversary of the 2/22/2016 grant date.
- (2) Employee granted 50,633 options which vest ratably over four years commencing on the second anniversary of the 2/22/2016 grant date. 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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