FREDS INC Form 3 July 11, 2016

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FORM 3 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement FREDS INC [FRED] James Mike A. (Month/Day/Year) 06/27/2016 (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 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) $12,658 \frac{(1)}{}$ 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 information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a

currently valid OMB control number.

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)		tle and Amount of crities Underlying vative Security	4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
		(Instr. 4)		Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)
	Dete Essesialle Essianti	Т:41	A	Derivative	Security:	
	Date Exercisable Expiration	n Title		Security	Direct (D)	
	Date		Number of		or Indirect	

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Options on Class A Common Stock $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ O6/27/2017 $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ O6/27/2023 Common Stock $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ Shares $\frac{(1)}{(1nstr. 5)}$ Class A Common Stock $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ O6/27/2017 $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ O6/27/2023 Common Stock $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ \$ 15.44 D Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

James Mike A.

4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD Â Â Â SVP Â

MEMPHIS, TNÂ 38118

Signatures

Jerry Shore by power of attorney 07/11/2016

**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).
- Employee granted 11,658 shares of restricted stock which vest 20% per year on the anniversary of the 6/27/16 grant date. Vesting is subject to acceleration based upon achievement of financial performance metrics. In addition, employee separately holds 1000 shares of
- (2) Employee granted 62,500 stock options which vest 20% per year on the anniversary of the 6/27/16 grant date. Vesting is subject to acceleration based upon achievement of financial performance metrics.

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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