FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB API           | PROVAL    |
|-------------------|-----------|
| OMB Number:       | 3235-0287 |
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0.5

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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)                       |

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|   |  |          |          |         | _                           |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    | _                     |   |  |  |  |                  |  |
|---|--|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|------------|---|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|------------------|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <sup>*</sup>          |  |          |          |         |                             | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol          |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) |  |  |  |                  |  |
| PETTY JAMES C   |  |          |          |         |                             | CARTERS INC [ CRI ]   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       |   | Direc  | ,  | 10%  | Owner            |  |
|   |  |          |          |         |                             |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       |   | Office   | er (give title<br>v)   | Othe<br>belov  | r (specify<br>v) |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle)                                       |  |          |          |         |                             | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/02/2012 |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       | President Retail Stores   |  |  |  |                  |  |
| 1170 PEACHTREE STREET   |  |          |          |         |                             | 05/02/2012  |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       |   |  |  |  |                  |  |
| SUITE 900   |  |          |          |         |                             |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       |   |  |  |  |                  |  |
|   |  |          |          |         | 4. If                       | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)    |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)             |  |  |  |                  |  |
| (Street) ATLANT   | 'A GA  | <u> </u> | 80309    |         |                             |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       | X Form filed by One Reporting Person                                    |  |  |  |                  |  |
|   | 71 G/  | 1        |          |         |                             |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       | Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person                         |  |  |  |                  |  |
| (City)  | (St  | ate) (   | Zip)     |         |                             |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       |   |  | 011  |  |                  |  |
|   |  | Tabl     | e I - No | n-Deriv | ative                       | Sec   | uritie                                  | s Ac   | quired  | l, Dis     | sposed o  | f, or     | Ber                                | eficia                | ally (  | Owne   | ed   |  |                  |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transacti Date (Month/Day |  |          |          |         |                             | Execution Date,   |   |  | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8)  4. Securities Acq<br>Disposed Of (D) ( |            |   |           |                                    | and 5) Secu<br>Bene   |   | icially<br>d Following   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)        | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)  |                  |  |
|   |  |          |          |         |                             | Code  | v                                       | Amount   | (A)   | or         | Price   |           | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                       |   | (111511.4)   |  |  |                  |  |
| Common  | 2012   | 2012     |          |         | S                           |   | 19,886                                  |  | D   | \$48.37(1) |   | 43,859(2) |                                    | D                     |   |  |  |  |                  |  |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |          |          |         |                             |   |   |  |   |            |   |           |                                    |                       |   |  |  |  |                  |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)           | Derivative Conversion Date Security or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any  |          |          |         | Transaction<br>Code (Instr. |   | mber<br>ative<br>rities<br>ired<br>osed | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |   |            | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>and 4) |           | nstr. 3                            |                       | rative de<br>rity Se<br>(. 5) Be<br>Ov<br>Fo<br>Re                      | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactions (Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |                  |  |
|   |  |          |          |         | Code                        | v   | (A)                                     | (D)  | Date<br>Exercis   | able       | Expiration<br>Date  | Title     | or<br>Nu<br>of                     | nount<br>mber<br>ares |   |  |  |  |                  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. This is a weighted average price. The shares were sold in multiple trade executions at prices ranging from \$48.13 to \$48.56, inclusive. Upon request by the Commission staff, the Issuer, or a security holder of the Issuer, the Reporting Person will provide full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price.
- 2. Some of these shares are restricted shares that are subject to either time-vesting or performance-based restrictions.

## Remarks:

/s/Brendan M. Gibbons, Attorney-in-Fact for James C. 03/06/2012 Petty

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- $^{\star}$  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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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 Number.