

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
December 19, 2005

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 19, 2005

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

0-18630

95-4274680

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

777 North Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (213) 625-4700

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

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Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(d) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 19, 2005, Cathay General Bancorp announced in a press release that it has received regulatory approval from the New York State Banking Department to acquire up to 100% of the outstanding stock of Great Eastern Bank. That press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release of Cathay General Bancorp dated December 19, 2005.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 19, 2005

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

By: /s/ Heng W. Chen

Heng W. Chen

Executive Vice President and Chief

Financial Officer

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Number      Exhibit

99.1            Press Release of Cathay General Bancorp dated December 19, 2005.