BOWEN HOWARD B

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Form 4 or

Form 4 January 04, 2006

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

BOWEN HOWARD B

(Last) (First) (Middle)

TWO HOPKINS PLAZA

(Street)

BALTIMORE, MD 21201

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

MERCANTILE BANKSHARES CORP [(MRBK)]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

12/31/2005

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

_X__ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 1.Title of Execution Date, if Security (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3)

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8)

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I) (Instr. 4)

Ownership (Instr. 4)

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

(A)

or

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

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

1. Title of 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Security or Exercise any

5. Number of TransactionDerivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

8. Pı

Deri

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed o (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	f				(Inst
				Code V	(A) (D) Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom Stock Units	<u>(2)</u>	12/31/2005		A	6.2276	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	Common Stock	6.2276	\$ 5
Phantom Stock Units	<u>(2)</u>	01/01/2006		A	500	(3)	(3)	Common Stock	500	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
1 8	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
BOWEN HOWARD B TWO HOPKINS PLAZA BALTIMORE, MD 21201	X						

Signatures

Dennis W. Kriener p/a for Howard B.

Bowen 01/04/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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) Acquired under Issuer's Unfunded Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors, and will be settled 100% in stock when the Reporting Person ceases to be a Director or at a later date to be determined by the Reporting Person.
- (2) 1 for 1

Acquired under Issuer's Stock Retainer and Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, adopted by the stockholders on (3) May 10, 2005, and will be settled 100% in stock when the reporting person ceases to be a Director or at a later date to be determinded by the Reporting Person.

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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