Pruitt Ricky Form 3 May 14, 2009

FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(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] Pruitt Ricky (Month/Day/Year) 10/27/2008 (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 Vice President Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Class A common Stock $5,000^{(1)}$ 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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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | ty 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 |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Date | Date Expiration Exercisable Date | (Instr. 4) Title | Amount or | Price of Derivative | Derivative Security: | (Instr. 5) |
| | Exercisable | | Number of | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect | | |

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| | | | | Shares | | (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Option on Class A Common Stock | 09/11/2008 | 09/11/2010 | Class A Common stock | 3,000 | \$ 17.67 | D | Â |
| Option on Class A Common Stock | 09/19/2008 | 09/19/2010 | Class A Common Stock | 750 | \$ 20.6 | D | Â |
| option on Class A Common Stock | 09/08/2009 | 09/08/2011 | Class A Common stock | 750 | \$ 14.6 | D | Â |
| Option on Class A Common Stock | 03/21/2011 | 03/21/2013 | Class A Common Stock | 1,000 | \$ 13.25 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------|--|--|
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| Pruitt Ricky 4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD MEMPHIS. TN 38118 | Â | Â | Vice President | Â | | |

Signatures

Anita Ryan by power of
Attorney

**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) Grant 10/27/08 upon his promotion.

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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