

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 4

Statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2006-01-05** | Period of Report: **2006-01-03**
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REPORTING OWNER

RUSSELL H EARLE JR

CIK: **1195526**

Type: **4** | Act: **34** | File No.: **000-15083** | Film No.: **06511122**

Mailing Address
C/O GREENVILLE SURGICAL
ASSOCIATES
10 MEMORIAL MEDICAL DR
GREENVILLE SC 29605

ISSUER

SOUTH FINANCIAL GROUP INC

CIK: **797871** | IRS No.: **570824914** | State of Incorpor.: **SC** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
SIC: **6022** State commercial banks

Mailing Address
102 S MAIN STREET
GREENVILLE SC 29601

Business Address
102 S MAIN ST
GREENVILLE SC 29601
8642557900

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person RUSSELL H EARLE JR			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SOUTH FINANCIAL GROUP INC [TSFG]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/03/2006			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person		
10 MEMORIAL MEDICAL DRIVE			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)					
(Street) GREENVILLE 29605								
(City)	(State)	(Zip)						

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	01/03/2006		A		300	A	\$ 0	9,887.82	D	

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V		(A)	(D)					

Signatures

William P. Crawford, Jr., Attorney-in-Fact

** Signature of Reporting Person

01/04/2006

Date

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

* 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.