

Gilmer Frederick III  
 Form 4  
 January 20, 2010

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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 Person \*  
 Gilmer Frederick III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 SOUTHERN FIRST  
 BANCSHARES INC [SFST]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 P.O. BOX 17465  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/18/2010

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Executive Vice President

GREENVILLE, SC 29606

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

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

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 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|

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| (Instr. 3)                           | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |                     | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                      |                                    |                  |            | Code   | V                   |                     |                    |                 |                                     |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy) | \$ 6.06                            | 01/18/2010       |            | D  | 8,250<br><u>(1)</u> | 03/21/2001          | 03/21/2010         | Common<br>Stock | 8,250                               |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy) | \$ 7.55                            | 01/19/2010       |            | A  | 10,000              | 01/19/2011          | 01/19/2020         | Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |                          |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                  | Other |
| Gilmer Frederick III<br>P.O. BOX 17465<br>GREENVILLE, SC 29606 |               |           | Executive Vice President |       |

## Signatures

Frederick Gilmer, III, /s/Julie A. Fairchild,  
POA 01/20/2010

\_\_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) The option was canceled by mutual agreement of the reporting person and Southern First Bancshares.

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

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