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HANCOCK JOHN BANK & THRIFT OPPORTUNITY FUND

Form 3

May 08, 2006

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FORM 3 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

Danello John

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

(Zip)

Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

03/01/2006

2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

HANCOCK JOHN BANK & THRIFT OPPORTUNITY

FUND [bto]

4. Relationship of Reporting

Person(s) to Issuer

Director

X_ Officer

5. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

601 CONGRESS STREET

(Street)

(Check all applicable)

10% Owner Other

(give title below) (specify below) VP, the Adviser

6. Individual or Joint/Group

Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting

Person

_ Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial

BOSTON. MAÂ 02110

(City) (State)

1. Title of Security

(Instr. 4)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form:

Ownership (Instr. 5)

Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

(Instr. 4)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

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

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying **Derivative Security**

Conversion or Exercise Price of

4

Ownership Form of Derivative

5.

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

Date Exercisable

Expiration Title Date

Amount or Number of Shares

Derivative Security

Security: Direct (D) or Indirect

(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Danello John

601 CONGRESS STREET \hat{A} \hat{A} \hat{A} VP, the Adviser \hat{A}

BOSTON, MAÂ 02110

Signatures

John Danello 05/04/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

No securities are beneficially owned

- * 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).

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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