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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

**FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant  
as specified in its charter)

**INDIANA**

(State of incorporation  
or organization)

**35-1544218**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**FIRST MERCHANTS CAPITAL TRUST I**

(Exact name of registrant  
as specified in its charter)

**DELAWARE**

(State of incorporation  
or organization)

**51-6523248**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**200 EAST JACKSON STREET  
MUNCIE, INDIANA 47305  
(765) 747-1500**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of registrants' principal executive offices)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

**Title of each class  
to be registered**

**Name of each exchange on which  
each class is to be registered**

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NONE

NOT APPLICABLE

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A. (c), check the following box.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A. (d), check the following box.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates:  
333-75748 and 333-75748-01.

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

**CUMULATIVE TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES OF  
FIRST MERCHANTS CAPITAL TRUST I**

**GUARANTEE BY FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES**

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### ITEM 1. DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT'S SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED

The information relating to the Registrants' securities required by Item 202 of Regulation S-K is hereby incorporated by reference to the information presented under the captions "Description of the Preferred Securities," "Description of the Debentures," "Description of the Guarantee," "Relationship Among the Preferred Securities, the Debentures, and the Guarantee" in the Registrants' Pre-Effective Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-75748 and 333-75748-01) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 3, 2002 (the "Form S-3"). The same sections of the Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) shall, upon filing, be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein.

### ITEM 2. EXHIBITS



SIGNATURE