FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Sherman Patrick A | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME] | | | | | | | | | k all app | olicable) | ng Person(s) to | Issuer Owner | |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON STREET | | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/01/2019 | | | | | | | | | Offic belov | er (give title w) | | Other (specify below) | |
| (Street) MUNCIE | | | 17305 Zip) | | 4. If <i>i</i> | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | | | | | | rson | | |
| | | Tabl | e I - No | n-Deriv | ative | Sec | uritie | s Acc | quired | , Dis | sposed o | f, or E | Bene | ficially | Owne | ed | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Date | | | | | Execu ay/Year) if any | | a. Deemed Recution Date, any Ionth/Day/Year) | | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | | | | Securi Benefi | cially I Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or P | rice | Transa | action(s) 3 and 4) | | (113111 4) | |
| Common Stock 02/01/2 | | | | | | 2019 | | P | | 13.496 | 6 A \$37. | | 37.048 | 36,689.445 ⁽¹⁾ | | 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. Deem Execution if any (Month/D | n Date, Transa Code (I | | | | ative rities ired osed | 6. Date I Expirati (Month/ | on Da | | | Der Ser (Ins | Price of rivative curity str. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisa | able | Expiration Date | Title | Amo or Num of Share | ber | | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes Restricted Stock Awards totaling 4,045 shares

Remarks:

Addison Nicoll (Confirming Statement on File)

02/05/2019

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- * 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.