

SHORE BANCSHARES INC
Form 10-K
March 17, 2008

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

FORM 10-K

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

Commission File No. 0-22345

SHORE BANCSHARES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

52-1974638
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

18 East Dover Street, Easton, Maryland
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

21601
(Zip Code)

(410) 822-1400

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code

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

Title of Each Class:
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered:
Nasdaq Global Select Market

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 16(d) of the Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer (check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller Reporting Company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act):
Yes No

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter: \$203,456,742.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of the latest practicable date: 8,395,450 as of March 3, 2008.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Certain information required by Part III of this annual report is incorporated herein by reference to the definitive proxy statement for the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on April 23, 2008.

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This Annual Report of Shore Bancshares, Inc. on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Readers of this report should be aware of the speculative nature of “forward-looking statements.” Statements that are not historical in nature, including the words “anticipate,” “estimate,” “should,” “expect,” “believe,” “intend,” and similar expressions, are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about (among other things) the industry and the markets in which the Company and its subsidiaries operate; they are not guarantees of future performance. Whether actual results will conform to expectations and predictions is subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties, including risks and uncertainties discussed in this Form 10-K, general economic, market or business conditions; changes in interest rates, deposit flow, the cost of funds, and demand for loan products and financial services; changes in our competitive position or competitive actions by other companies; changes in the quality or composition of loan and investment portfolios; the ability to manage growth; changes in laws or regulations or policies of federal and state regulators and agencies; and other circumstances beyond the Company’s control. Consequently, all of the forward-looking statements made in this document are qualified by these cautionary statements, and there can be no assurance that the actual results anticipated will be realized, or if substantially realized, will have the expected consequences on the Company’s business or operations. For a more complete discussion of these and other risk factors, see Item 1A of Part I of this report. Except as required by applicable laws, we do not intend to publish updates or revisions of forward-looking statements it makes to reflect new information, future events or otherwise.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, the term “Company” as used in this report refers to Shore Bancshares, Inc. and the terms “we”, “us” and “our” refer collectively to Shore Bancshares, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

PART I

Item 1. Business.

BUSINESS

General

The Company was incorporated under the laws of Maryland on March 15, 1996 and is a financial holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the “BHC Act”). The Company’s primary business is acting as the parent company to several financial institution and insurance entities. The Company engages in the banking business through The Centreville National Bank of Maryland, a national banking association (“Centreville National Bank”), The Talbot Bank of Easton, Maryland, a Maryland commercial bank (“Talbot Bank”), and The Felton Bank, a Delaware commercial bank (“Felton Bank” and, together with Centreville National Bank and Talbot Bank, the “Banks”). The Company engages in the insurance business through two general insurance producer firms, The Avon-Dixon Agency, LLC, a Maryland limited liability company, and Elliott Wilson Insurance, LLC, a Maryland limited liability company; one marine insurance producer firm, Jack Martin & Associates, Inc., a Maryland corporation; three wholesale insurance firms, Tri-State General Insurance Agency, LTD, a Maryland corporation, Tri-State General Insurance Agency of New Jersey, Inc., a New Jersey corporation, and Tri-State General Insurance Agency of Virginia, Inc., a Virginia corporation; and two insurance premium finance companies, Mubell Finance, LLC, a Maryland limited liability company, and ESFS, Inc., a Maryland corporation (all of the foregoing are collectively referred to as the “Insurance Subsidiary”). On March 1, 2008, the Company established a mortgage broker subsidiary, Wye Mortgage Group, LLC (the “Mortgage Group”). The Company also has two inactive subsidiaries, Wye Financial Services, LLC and Shore Pension Services, LLC, both of which were organized under Maryland law.

Talbot Bank owns all of the issued and outstanding securities of Dover Street Realty, Inc., a Maryland corporation that engages in the business of holding and managing real property acquired by Talbot Bank as a result of loan foreclosures. Centreville National Bank, a national banking association, owns 20% of the issued and outstanding common stock of Delmarva Data Bank Processing Center, Inc. (“Delmarva Data”), a Maryland corporation that provides

data processing services to banks located in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia, including Centreville National Bank and Talbot Bank.

We operate in two business segments: community banking and insurance products and services. Financial information related to our operations in these segments for each of the two years ended December 31, 2007 is provided in Note 24 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of Part II of this report.

Banking Products and Services

Centreville National Bank is a national banking association that commenced operations in 1876. Talbot Bank is a Maryland commercial bank that commenced operations in 1885 and was acquired by the Company in its December 2000 merger with Talbot Bancshares, Inc. ("Talbot Bancshares"). Felton Bank is a Delaware commercial bank that commenced operations in 1908 and was acquired by the Company in April 2004 when it merged with Midstate Bancorp, Inc. The Banks operate 17 full service branches and 21 ATMs and provide a full range of commercial and consumer banking products and services to individuals, businesses, and other organizations in the Maryland counties of Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester and in Kent County, Delaware. The

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Banks' deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC").

The Banks are independent community banks and serve businesses and individuals in their respective market areas. Services offered are essentially the same as those offered by larger regional institutions that compete with the Banks. Services provided to businesses include commercial checking, savings, certificate of deposit and overnight investment sweep accounts. The Banks offer all forms of commercial lending, including secured and unsecured loans, working capital loans, lines of credit, term loans, accounts receivable financing, real estate acquisition development, construction loans and letters of credit. Merchant credit card clearing services are available as well as direct deposit of payroll, internet banking and telephone banking services.

Services to individuals include checking accounts, various savings programs, mortgage loans, home improvement loans, installment and other personal loans, credit cards, personal lines of credit, automobile and other consumer financing, safe deposit boxes, debit cards, 24 hour telephone banking, PC and internet banking, and 24-hour automatic teller machine services. The Banks also offer nondeposit products, such as mutual funds and annuities, and discount brokerage services to their customers. Additionally, the Banks have Saturday hours and extended hours on certain evenings during the week for added customer convenience.

Lending Activities

The Banks originate secured and unsecured loans for business purposes. Commercial loans are typically secured by real estate, accounts receivable, inventory equipment and/or other assets of the business. Commercial loans generally involve a greater degree of credit risk than one to four family residential mortgage loans. Repayment is often dependent on the successful operation of the business and may be affected by adverse conditions in the local economy or real estate market. The financial condition and cash flow of commercial borrowers is therefore carefully analyzed during the loan approval process, and continues to be monitored by obtaining business financial statements, personal financial statements and income tax returns. The frequency of this ongoing analysis depends upon the size and complexity of the credit and collateral that secures the loan. It is also the Company's general policy to obtain personal guarantees from the principals of the commercial loan borrowers.

Commercial real estate loans are primarily those secured by office condominiums, retail buildings, warehouses and general purpose business space. Low loan to value ratio standards, as well as the thorough financial analysis performed and the Banks' knowledge of the local economy in which they lend are employed to help reduce the risk associated with these loans.

The Banks provide residential real estate construction loans to builders and individuals for single family dwellings. Residential construction loans are usually granted based upon "as completed" appraisals and are secured by the property under construction. Additional collateral may be taken if loan to value ratios exceed 80%. Site inspections are performed to determine pre-specified stages of completion before loan proceeds are disbursed. These loans typically have maturities of six to 12 months and may have fixed or variable rate features. Permanent financing options for individuals include fixed and variable rate loans with three- and five-year balloon features and one-, three- and five-year adjustable rate mortgage loans. The risk of loss associated with real estate construction lending is controlled through conservative underwriting procedures such as loan to value ratios of 80% or less, obtaining additional collateral when prudent, and closely monitoring construction projects to control disbursement of funds on loans.

The Banks originate fixed and variable rate residential mortgage loans. As with any consumer loan, repayment is dependent on the borrower's continuing financial stability, which can be adversely impacted by job loss, divorce, illness, or personal bankruptcy. Underwriting standards recommend loan to value ratios not to exceed 80% based on appraisals performed by approved appraisers. The Banks rely on title insurance to protect their lien priorities and protect the property securing the loans by requiring fire and casualty insurance.

The Mortgage Group, which operated in 2007 as a division of Centreville National Bank, brokers long-term fixed rate residential mortgage loans for sale on the secondary market for which it receives commissions upon settlement.

A variety of consumer loans are offered to customers, including home equity loans, credit cards and other secured and unsecured lines of credit and term loans. Careful analysis of an applicant's creditworthiness is performed before granting credit, and on going monitoring of loans outstanding is performed in an effort to minimize risk of loss by identifying problem loans early.

Deposit Activities

The Banks offer a full array of deposit products including checking, savings and money market accounts, regular and IRA certificates of deposit, and Christmas Savings accounts. The Banks also offer the CDARS program, providing up to \$20 million of FDIC insurance to our customers. In addition, we offer our commercial customers packages which include Cash Management services and various checking opportunities.

Trust Services

Centreville National Bank established a trust department during the second quarter of 2005 and markets trust, asset management and financial planning services to customers within our market areas.

Insurance Activities

The Avon-Dixon Agency, LLC, Elliott Wilson Insurance, LLC, and Mubell Finance, LLC were formed as a result of the Company's acquisition of the assets of The Avon-Dixon Agency, Inc., Elliott Wilson Insurance, Inc., Avon-Dixon Financial Services, Inc., Joseph M. George & Son, Inc. and 59th Street Finance Company on May 1, 2002. In November 2002, The Avon-Dixon Agency, LLC acquired certain assets of W. M. Freestate & Son, Inc., a full-service insurance producer firm located in Centreville, Maryland. Jack Martin & Associates, Inc., Tri-State General Insurance Agency, LTD, Tri-State General Insurance Agency of New Jersey, Inc., Tri-State General Insurance Agency of Virginia, Inc., and ESFS, Inc. were acquired on October 1, 2007.

The Insurance Subsidiaries offer a full range of insurance products and services to customers, including insurance premium financing.

Seasonality

Management does not believe that our business activities are seasonal in nature. Demand for our products and services may vary depending on local and national economic conditions, but management believes that any variation will not have a material impact on our planning or policy-making strategies.

Employees

At February 29, 2008, we employed 373 persons, of which 328 were employed on a full-time basis.

COMPETITION

The banking business, in all of its phases, is highly competitive. Within our market areas, we compete with commercial banks (including local banks and branches or affiliates of other larger banks), savings and loan associations and credit unions for loans and deposits, with money market and mutual funds and other investment alternatives for deposits, with consumer finance companies for loans, with insurance companies, agents and brokers for insurance products, and with other financial institutions for various types of products and services. There is also competition for commercial and retail banking business from banks and financial institutions located outside our market areas.

The primary factors in competing for deposits are interest rates, personalized services, the quality and range of financial services, convenience of office locations and office hours. The primary factors in competing for loans are interest rates, loan origination fees, the quality and range of lending services and personalized services. The primary factors in competing for insurance customers are competitive rates, the quality and range of insurance products offered, and quality, personalized service.

To compete with other financial services providers, we rely principally upon local promotional activities, including advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals and other publications and on the radio, personal relationships established by officers, directors and employees with customers, and specialized services tailored to meet its customers' needs. In those instances in which we are unable to accommodate the needs of a customer, we will arrange for those services to be provided by other financial services providers with which we have a relationship. We additionally rely on referrals from satisfied customers.

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The following tables set forth deposit data for FDIC-insured institutions in Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester Counties in Maryland and for Kent County in Delaware as of June 30, 2007, the most recent date for which comparative information is available.

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Kent County, Maryland	Deposits (in thousands)	% of Total
Peoples Bank of Kent County, Maryland	\$ 159,916	33.65%
Mercantile Shore Bank	151,864	31.96
Chesapeake Bank and Trust Co.	65,641	13.81
Branch Banking & Trust	40,988	8.63
The Centreville National Bank of Maryland	30,488	6.42
SunTrust Bank	26,298	5.53
Total	\$ 475,195	100.00%

Source: FDIC DataBook

Queen Anne's County, Maryland	Deposits (in thousands)	% of Total
The Queenstown Bank of Maryland	\$ 305,135	40.78%
The Centreville National Bank of Maryland	203,292	27.17
Bank of America, National Association	63,337	8.46
Mercantile Shore Bank	61,797	8.26
Bank Annapolis	47,090	6.29
M&T	43,002	5.75
Branch Banking & Trust	22,681	3.03
Sun Trust Bank	1,453	0.19
Branch Banking & Trust	551	0.07
Total	\$ 748,338	100.00%

Source: FDIC DataBook

Caroline County, Maryland	Deposits (in thousands)	% of Total
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