

THOMAS EDWARD J  
 Form 3  
 November 15, 2002

**FORM 3**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
 COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**OMB APPROVAL**

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL  
 OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

(Print or Type Responses)

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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  Thomas Edward J. (Last) (First) (Middle)	4. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol  Spartan Stores, Inc. ("SPTN")
850 - 76th Street SW  (Street)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) _____ Director &nbsp;    _____ 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title _____ Other (specify below) below) &nbsp;    &nbsp;    &nbsp; <u>Vice President Retail</u> <u>Merchandising</u>
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49518  (City) (State) (Zip)	6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 11/13/02	7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person _____ Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person
3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)	

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned			
1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	0		

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.  
 \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

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(Over)  
SEC 1473 (7-02)

Form 3 (continued) Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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 (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	6/17/03	6/16/12	Common Stock	625	\$4.33	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	6/17/04	6/16/12	Common Stock	625	\$4.33	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	6/17/05	6/16/12	Common Stock	625	\$4.33	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	6/17/06	6/16/12	Common Stock	625	\$4.33	D	

Explanation of Responses:

\*\*Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations  
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

By /s/ Edward J. Thomas  
\*\*Signature of Reporting Person  
Edward J. Thomas

November 15, 2002  
Date

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed.

If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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