

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 SPILMAN, JR, ROBERT H
 BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES INC
 P O BOX 626
 245 MAIN STREET
 BASSETT, VA 24055
 USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES INC
 BSET
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 ###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year
 DECEMBER 1996
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 () Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 (X) Form filed by One Reporting Person
 () Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Price	6. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	7. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	8. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
COMMON STOCK	12-17-96	G	V 898	A	35,019	D	
	12-17-96	G	V 898	A	12,171	I	WIFE
	12-17-96	G	V 898	A	8,942	I	MARTHA-CHILD
	12-17-96	G	V 898	A	8,129	I	VA-CHILD
	12-17-96	G	V 898	A	4,821	I	ROB-CHILD

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	28.00				3-02-93	8-31-2002	COMMON	1,785	4,463	D
					1994	" "		2,678		
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	37.40				1994	1-25-2003	COMMON	667	6,250	D
					1995	" "		2,673		
					1996	" "		2,673		
					1997	" "		237		
**OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	26.25				1-01-97	5-04-2004	COMMON	2,000	2,000	D

Explanation of Responses:
 *GRANTED UNDER THE 1982 STOCK OPTION PLAN WHICH IS A RULE 16b-3 PLAN.
 **GRANTED UNDER THE 1993 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN WHICH IS A RULE 16b-3 PLAN.
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 ROBERT H SPILMAN JR

