

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
 MAY 1997
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 () 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)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
COMMON STOCK						35,019	D	
						12,171	I	WIFE
						8,942	I	MARTHA-CHILD
						8,129	I	VA-CHILD
						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)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership		
											Amount	A/D
*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		
OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	22.625	5-06-97	A	V	80,000	A	*	5-06-2002	COMMON	***	80,000	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.
 ***40,000 SHARES AT LEAST 6 MONTHS AFTER 5-06-97 AND ON THE DATE THE PRICE OF THE STOCK FIRST EXCEEDS \$29.00 PER

SHARE
****40,000 SHARES AT LEAST 6 MONTHS AFTER 5-06-97 AND ON THE DATE THE PRICE OF
THE STOCK FIRST
EXCEEDS \$37.00 PER
SHARE

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
ROBERT H SPILMAN JR
DATE
6-04-97