

FULLER LYNN B  
Form 4  
January 26, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 OF SECURITIES**

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(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
FULLER LYNN B

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA  
INC [HTLF]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
1398 CENTRAL AVE.  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/25/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
President & CEO

DUBUQUE, IA 52001

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 34,500 <sup>(7)</sup> <sup>(10)</sup>   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/25/2012                           |  | J <sup>(12)</sup>              | 151,024 A   | \$ 0 750,886 <sup>(11)</sup>  | I  | As Trustee <sup>(2)</sup>                             |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 6,000 <sup>(1)</sup>  | I  | By Spouse   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 2,142.233 <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(5)</sup>   | I  | By Son <sup>(8)</sup>                                 |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 123,078 <sup>(1)</sup>  | I  | As Trustee <sup>(3)</sup>                             |

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|              |                                      |   |                       |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Common Stock | 673,445 <sup>(1)</sup><br><u>(5)</u> | I | By Son <sup>(9)</sup> |
| Common Stock | 12,188 <sup>(6)</sup>                | I | HTLF Retirement Plan  |

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

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(9-02)

**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. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                      | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right To Buy)  | \$ 19.48   |                                      |  |                                |   | <u>(4)</u>   | 01/20/2014  | Common Stock               | 15,000                     |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)  | \$ 21  |                                      |  |                                |   | <u>(4)</u>   | 02/10/2015  | Common Stock               | 15,000                     |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)  | \$ 21.6  |                                      |  |                                |   | <u>(4)</u>   | 02/06/2016  | Common Stock               | 10,000                     |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)  | \$ 29.65   |                                      |  |                                |   | <u>(4)</u>   | 01/16/2017  | Common Stock               | 10,000                     |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)  | \$ 18.6  |                                      |  |                                |   | <u>(4)</u>   | 01/24/2018  | Common Stock               | 8,000                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                          | Relationships |           |                 |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer         | Other |
| FULLER LYNN B<br>1398 CENTRAL AVE.<br>DUBUQUE, IA 52001 | X             |           | President & CEO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Lynn B.  
Fuller

01/26/2012

\_\_Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).
- (1) The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities, and this report shall not be deemed to be an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or any other purpose.
- (2) Shares held by Lynn B. Fuller Trust Under Agreement dated 5-7-96, Lynn B. Fuller Trustee
- (3) Shares held by the Emma O. Fuller Trust dated 9-3-85 Dubuque Bank & Trust, L.S. Fuller & L.B. Fuller, co-trustees
- (4) Represents options to buy granted under the Company's Stock Option Plan, a Rule 16(b)(3) plan, which options vest one-third per year beginning on the 3rd anniversary of date of grant.
- (5) These shares participate in a Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (6) Represents shares allocated to the reporting person's account under the Heartland Financial USA, Inc. Retirement Plan as a result of the Pension Plan Protection Act of 2006.
- (7) Includes 26,250 Restricted Stock Units (RSU). Each RSU represents the right to receive one share of common stock. The grant vests in three equal installments on the third, fourth and fifth anniversaries of the grant date.
- (8) These shares are registered to Lynn H. Fuller.
- (9) These shares are registered to Thomas John Fuller.
- (10) Includes 8,250 shares of Performance Based Restricted Stock.
- (11) Includes 65 shares issued as an Employee Service Award.
- (12) Pro rata distribution from limited partnership for which Mr. Fuller was not a general partner.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.