

BURGESS ERNEST G III
 Form 5
 January 07, 2009

FORM 5

**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).
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 BURGESS ERNEST G III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP
 [NHC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2008

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

7097 FRANKLIN ROAD

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

MURFREESBORO, TN 37128

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 Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 8. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| Shares of Common Stock | 12/31/2008 | | G | 5,000 D | \$ 0 | 149,832 | D | |
| Shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock | | | | | | 147,560 | D | |

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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) | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| | | | | | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 27.01 | Â | Â | Â | Â Â | 04/20/2004 | 04/19/2009 | Common Stock | 6,372 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 32.01 | Â | Â | Â | Â Â | 05/03/2005 | 05/02/2010 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 44.25 | Â | Â | Â | Â Â | 05/03/2006 | 05/02/2011 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 52.5 | Â | Â | Â | Â Â | 04/24/2007 | 04/23/2012 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 51.5 | Â | Â | Â | Â Â | 05/01/2008 | 04/30/2013 | Common Stock | 15,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BURGESS ERNEST G III 7097 FRANKLIN ROAD | Â X | Â | Â | Â |

MURFREESBORO, TN 37128

Signatures

Ernest G.
Burgess III

12/31/2008

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).

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