

LEE EUGENE I JR
Form 4
October 03, 2007

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
LEE EUGENE I JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC
[DRI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
10/01/2007

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
President, Specialty Rest Grp

ORLANDO, FL 32809

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)		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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	10/01/2007		A		7,511	\$ 0	7,511	D
Common Stock	10/01/2007		A		4,957	\$ 0	12,468	D
Common Stock	10/01/2007		A		4,898	\$ 0	17,366	D
Common Stock	10/01/2007		A		12,362	\$ 0	29,728	D
Common Stock	10/01/2007		A		15,493	\$ 0	45,221	D

Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 35.51	10/01/2007	A	34,185	10/01/2007	02/08/2016	Common Stock
Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 35.94	10/01/2007	A	32,115	10/01/2007	02/13/2017	Common Stock
Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right-to-Buy)	\$ 43	10/01/2007	A	129,055	10/01/2010	10/01/2017	Common Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LEE EUGENE I JR 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE ORLANDO, FL 32809			President, Specialty Rest Grp	

Signatures

By: Douglas E. Wentz , Attorney-in-Fact for Eugene I.
Lee, Jr. 10/03/2007

**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 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.