

Wilhite Clayton E  
 Form 4  
 March 07, 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 \*  
 Wilhite Clayton E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CARROLS RESTAURANT GROUP, INC. [TAST]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 03/05/2012

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

C/O CARROLS RESTAURANT GROUP, INC., 968 JAMES STREET

(Street)

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

SYRACUSE, NY 13203

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D) Price  |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock, \$0.01 par value  | 03/05/2012                           |  | A <sup>(1)</sup>               | 5,309 A   | \$ 0<br><u>(1)</u> 64,765   | D  |                                   |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**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) | 8. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Options (Right to Buy)                     | \$ 15.81   | 03/05/2012                           |  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 3,500   | <sup>(2)</sup> 05/31/2017                                | Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share                      | 3,500   |
| Options (Right to Buy)                     | \$ 6.43  | 03/05/2012                           |  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 3,500   | <sup>(3)</sup> 06/09/2018                                | Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share                      | 3,500   |
| Options (Right to Buy)                     | \$ 6.64  | 03/05/2012                           |  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 5,000   | <sup>(4)</sup> 06/03/2016                                | Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share                      | 5,000   |

## Reporting Owners

**Reporting Owner Name / Address**

**Relationships**

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

Wilhite Clayton E  
C/O CARROLS RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.  
968 JAMES STREET  
SYRACUSE, NY 13203

X

## Signatures

/s/ Clayton E.  
Wilhite

03/07/2012

\*\*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).

In connection with the spin-off of Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. by Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc. (the "Issuer") and in accordance with the Issuer's 2006 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Plan"), on March 5, 2012, all (i) outstanding vested stock options held by the Reporting Person under the Plan were converted into unrestricted shares of the Issuer's common stock using a conversion formula to preserve the intrinsic value of each option to the holder and (ii) outstanding unvested stock options held by the Reporting Person under the Plan were converted into restricted shares of the Issuer's common stock using a conversion formula to preserve the intrinsic value of each option to the holder.

(1) The Options were granted to the Reporting Person pursuant to the Plan and will vest and become exercisable over a period of five years, with one-fifth (1/5) of such Options vesting on each of May 31, 2008, May 31, 2009, May 31, 2010, May 31, 2011 and May 31, 2012, provided that the Reporting Person has continuously remained a director of the Issuer. Any unvested Options reported herein will be immediately forfeited upon the Reporting Person ceasing to be a director.

(2) The Options were granted to the Reporting Person pursuant to the Plan and will vest and become exercisable over a period of five years, with one-fifth (1/5) of such Options vesting on each of June 9, 2009, June 9, 2010, June 9, 2011, June 9, 2012 and June 9, 2013, provided that the Reporting Person has continuously remained a director of the Issuer. Any unvested Options reported herein will be immediately forfeited upon the Reporting Person ceasing to be a director.

(3) The Options were granted to the Reporting Person pursuant to the Plan and will vest and become exercisable over a period of five years, with one-fifth (1/5) of such Options vesting on each of June 3, 2010, June 3, 2011, June 3, 2012, June 3, 2013 and June 3, 2014, provided that the Reporting Person has continuously remained a director of the Issuer. Any unvested Options reported herein will be immediately forfeited upon the Reporting Person ceasing to be a director.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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