

STAGE STORES INC
Form 8-K
March 16, 2004

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

Current Report

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

March 11, 2004

(Date of Report, date of earliest event reported)

Stage Stores, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

001-14035

(Commission File Number)

NEVADA

(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

10201 Main Street, Houston, Texas

(Address of principal executive offices)

91-1826900

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

77025

(Zip Code)

(713) 667-5601

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure

On March 11, 2004, the Company issued a news release announcing that on, March 5, 2004, it completed the sale of the Peebles private label credit card portfolio to a subsidiary of Alliance Data Systems Corporation.. At closing, the Company received net cash proceeds of \$34.8 million, which approximated the amount of account balances outstanding on the closing date. A copy of the news release is attached to this Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1.

ITEM 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

- a. Financial statements of business acquired.

Not applicable.

- b. Pro forma financial information.

Not applicable.

- c. Exhibits.

99.1 News Release issued by Stage Stores, Inc. on March 11, 2004 announcing results for the fourth quarter ended January 31, 2004, provides earnings guidance and announces the sale of Peebles private label credit card portfolio.

ITEM 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On March 11, 2004, Stage Stores Inc. issued a news release announcing results for the fourth quarter ended January 31, 2004, provides earnings guidance and announces the sale of Peebles private label credit card portfolio. A copy of the news release is attached to this Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1.

The attached News Release and the information in this Item 12 shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

March 15, 2004

(Date)

STAGE STORES, INC.

s/ Michael E. McCreery _____

Michael E. McCreery

Executive Vice President and Chief

Financial Officer

