UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

( ) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

BROWN, DR., PETER W 417 LIBBIE AVENUE RICHMOND, VA 23226 USA

1. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC BSET

1. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

###-##-####

1. Statement for Month/Year APRIL 1997
2. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
3. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
   1. Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other (specify below)
4. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) ( ) Form filed by One Reporting Person

( ) Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

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| 1. Title of Security | |2. | |3. |  | |4.Securities Acquired (A) | | | | |5.Amount | | of | |6.Dir | |7.Nature of Indirect | | |
|  | | Transaction | | | | | or Disposed of (D) | | | | | Securities | | |ect | | Beneficial Ownership | | |
|  | | | | |  | | |  |  |  | | | Beneficially | | |(D)or | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |  | | | A/| | | | Owned at | | |Indir | | | | |
|  | | Date | |Code|V| | | | Amount | | | D | | Price | | End of | Month | |ect(I)| | | | |

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| COMMON STOCK | |4-02-9|J\* | | |V|628 | |A | |23.875 | |2,776 | |D | | | | |
|  | |7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| \*STOCK AWARDED IN LIEU OF C| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ASH BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEES| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1993 SOTCK OPTION PLAN FOR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Table II -- Derivative Securitites Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |

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| 1.Title of Derivative |2.Con- | | |3. | |4. |  | |5.Number of De | | |6.Date Exer|7.Title and Amount | | | |8.Price|9.Number | | |10.|11.Nature of| | |
| Security | |version | |Transaction | | | | rivative Secu | | |cisable and| | | of Underlying | |of Deri|of Deriva | | |Dir|Indirect | | |
|  | |or Exer | | | | |  | | rities Acqui | | |Expiration | | | Securities | |vative | |tive | |ect|Beneficial | | |
|  | |cise | | | | |  | | red(A) or Dis | | |Date(Month/| | |  | |Secu | |Securities | |(D)|Ownership | | |
|  | |Price of| | | | |  | | posed of(D) | | |Day/Year) | | |  | |rity | |Benefi | |or | | | |
|  | |Deriva- | | | | |  | | |  | |Date |Expir| | |  | | | |ficially | |Ind| | | |
|  | |tive | | | | |  | | | | A/|Exer-|ation| | | | Title and Number | | | |Owned at | |ire| | | |
|  | |Secu- | | | | | | | | | | D | |cisa-|Date | | | of Shares | | | |End of | |ct | | | |
|  | |rity | |Date | |Code|V| Amount | | | | | |ble | | | |  | | | |Month | |(I)| | | |

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| \*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)|27.75 | | | | | | | | | | |10-01|3-31-|COMMON | | | |500 | | | |500 | |D | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |-94 | |2004 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| \*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)|26.50 | | | | | | | | | | |10-03|4-02-|COMMON | | | |500 | | | |500 | |D | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |-95 | |2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| \*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)|25.75 | | | | | | | | | | |10-02|4-02-|COMMON | | | |500 | | | |500 | |D | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |-96 | |2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| \*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)|23.875 | |4-01-|A | | |V|500 | |A | |10-01|4-02-|COMMON | | | |500 | | | |500 | |D | | | | |
| | | |97 | | | | | | | | |-97 | |2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Explanation of Responses:

\*GRANTED UNDER THE 1993 STOCK PLAN FOR NON-EMPLOYEE

DIRECTORS

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

PETER W BROWN

DATE

4-09-97