STAGE STORES INC Form 3 April 14, 2003

FORM 3

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE

COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

INITIAL STATEMENT OF

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*

Grubbs Gough H.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

10201 Main Street

(Street)

<u>Houston</u> <u>TX</u> <u>77025</u>

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

April 11, 2003

3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person if an entity

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(Voluntary) 4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Stage Stores, Inc./STGS 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ____10% Owner ___ Other Director X Officer (specify below) (specify below) SVP, Logistics and Distribution 6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year) 7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form Filed by One Reporting Person ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person Table I--Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities 3. Ownership Form: 4. Nature of Indirect Direct (D) or Indirect (I) Beneficially Owned Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 5) (Instr. 5) Common Stock None (\$0.01 par value) Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) 1. Title of 2. Date Exercisable 3. Title and 4. 6. Nature 5. Derivative Conversion Ownership of Indirect and Expiration Date Amount of Securities or Exercise Form of Security (Month/Day/Year) Underlying Price of Derivative Beneficial (Instr. 4) Derivative Derivative Securities: Ownership Direct (D) or Security Security (Instr. 5) Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 5)

\$15.00

D

Stock Options

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| | Exercisable - 8/24/02 | 4,166 shares of Common Stock (2) | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|---------|---|
| | Expiration (1) | | | |
| Stock Options | Exercisable - 8/24/02 | 4,166 shares of Common Stock (2) | \$16.25 | D |
| | Expiration (1) | | | |
| Stock Options | Exercisable - 8/24/03 | 12,501 shares of Common Stock (2) | (3) | D |
| | Expiration (1) | | | |
| Stock Options | Exercisable - 8/24/04 | 12,500 shares of Common Stock (2) | (3) | D |
| | Expiration (1) | . , | | |
| Stock Options | Exercisable - 8/24/05 | 12,501 shares of Common Stock (2) | (3) | D |
| | Expiration (1) | | | |

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

or indirectly.

Explanation of Reponses:

- (1) The options will expire on the earlier of (i) sixty days after the termination of the Officer's employment with the Company and (ii) ten years from the date of grant (August 24, 2001).
- (2) Common stock par value is \$0.01.
- (3) Each vesting group is divided into three equal groups each having an exercise price of \$13.75, \$15.00 and \$16.25, respectively.

| /s/ Gough H. Grubbs | <u>April 14, 2003</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| **Signature of Reporting Person | Date |

^{*} If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

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

^{**} Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).