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PEAPACK GLADSTONE FINANCIAL CORP
Form 10-K
March 12, 2008

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2007 Commission File No. 000-23537

PEAPACK-GLADSTONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey 22-2491488
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

158 Route 206 07934
Peapack-Gladstone, New Jersey (Zip Code)
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number (908) 234-0700

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class -----	Name of Exchange on which Registered -----
Common Stock, No par value	American Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
NONE

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☐ No ☒.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No ☒.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐.

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment of this Form 10-K ☒.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer" and "large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☒
Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☐

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes [] No [X].

The aggregate market value of the shares held by unaffiliated stockholders was approximately \$212,797,636 on June 30, 2007.

As of February 29, 2008, 8,296,011 shares of no par value Common Stock were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Corporation's 2007 Annual Report (the "2007 Annual Report") and Definitive Proxy Statement for the Corporation's 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "2008 Proxy Statement") are incorporated by reference into Parts II and III.

FORM 10-K PEAPACK-GLADSTONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

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This Form 10-K contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and business of the Corporation. Such statements are not historical facts and include expressions about the Corporation's confidence, strategies and expectations about earnings, new and existing programs and products, relationships, opportunities, technology and market conditions. These statements may be identified by forward-looking terminology such as "expect," "believe," or "anticipate," or expressions of confidence like "strong," or "on-going," or similar statements or variations of such terms. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements include, among others, the following possibilities:

- o Effectiveness of the Corporation's balance sheet restructuring initiative.
- o Unexpected decline in the direction of the economy in New Jersey.
- o Unexpected changes in interest rates.
- o Failure to grow business.
- o Inability to manage growth in commercial loans.
- o Unexpected loan prepayment volume.
- o Unanticipated exposure to credit risks.
- o Insufficient allowance for loan losses.
- o Competition from other financial institutions.
- o Adverse effects of government regulation or different than anticipated effects from existing regulations.
- o Decline in the levels of loan quality and origination volume.
- o Decline in trust assets or deposits.
- o Unexpected classification of securities to other-than-temporary impaired status.

The Corporation assumes no responsibility to update such forward-looking

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statements in the future.

PART I

Item 1. BUSINESS

The Corporation

Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation (the "Corporation") is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended ("Holding Company Act"). The Corporation was organized under the laws of New Jersey in August 1997, by the Board of Directors of Peapack-Gladstone Bank (the "Bank"), its principal subsidiary, to become a holding company for the Bank. The Bank is a state chartered commercial bank founded in 1921 under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Deposits of the Bank are insured for up to \$100,000 per depositor by the FDIC. The Bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System. The Bank offers financial services through 21 full-service banking offices, and one mini-branch. The Bank maintains nine branches and one auxiliary office in Somerset County, eight in Morris County, three in Hunterdon County and one in Union County.

The Bank is primarily dedicated to providing quality, personalized financial, trust and investment services to individuals and small businesses.

Commercial loan customers of the Bank are business people, including merchants, architects, doctors, dentists, attorneys and building contractors as well as various service firms and other local retailers. Most forms of commercial lending are offered, including working capital lines of credit, term loans for fixed asset acquisitions, commercial mortgages and other forms of asset-based financing.

In addition to commercial lending activities, the Bank offers a wide range of consumer banking services, including: checking and savings accounts, money market and interest-bearing checking accounts, certificates of deposit, and individual retirement accounts held in certificates of deposit. The Bank also offers residential and construction mortgages, home equity lines of credit and other second mortgage loans. For children, the Bank offers a special pony club savings account. New Jersey Consumer Checking Accounts are offered to low income customers. In addition, the Bank provides foreign and domestic travelers' checks, cashier's checks and wire transfers. Automated teller machines are available at 22 locations. Via the automatic teller machine access card issued by the Bank, customers may pay for commodities at point-of-sale merchant locations. Internet banking is available to customers including an on-line bill payment option. The Corporation has no foreign operations.

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The Bank has a Trust and Investment Department, PGB Trust and Investments, which offers personal investment management services, personal trust administration services, estate settlement, income tax services, custodial services and other financial planning services. Since its inception in 1972, market value of trust assets have increased to almost \$2.03 billion.

The Corporation makes its Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to such reports, available on its website at www.pgbank.com. Also available on the website are the Corporation's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Corporate Governance Principles and charters for the Corporation's Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating Committee.

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Employees

As of December 31, 2007, the Corporation employed 254 full-time equivalent persons. Management considers relations with employees to be satisfactory.

Principal Market Areas

The Bank's principal market for its deposit gathering activities includes Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon and Union Counties. The area is composed of upper-income single-family homes, moderate-income properties, some low-income housing and several large corporate campuses. There are numerous small retail businesses in each of the towns as well as offices for various professionals, i.e. attorneys, architects, interior decorators, physicians, etc. A portion of the market area is bisected by Interstate Highways 287 and 78 where numerous corporate offices have relocated over the past 25 years.

The Bank has expanded its service areas from one office in 1968 to the present 21 full-service banking locations and one mini-branch location by steadily opening new branches. All of the communities that the Bank serves are demographically similar and contiguous to the main office.

Competition

The market for banking and bank-related services is highly competitive. The Bank competes with other providers of financial services such as other bank holding companies, commercial and savings banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, money market and mutual funds, mortgage companies, and a growing list of other local, regional and national institutions which offer financial services. Mergers between financial institutions within New Jersey and in neighboring states have added competitive pressure. The Bank competes by offering quality products and convenient services at competitive prices. In order to maintain and enhance its competitive position, the Bank regularly reviews its products, locations and new branching prospects.

Governmental Policies and Legislation

The banking industry is highly regulated. Statutory and regulatory controls increase a bank holding company's cost of doing business and limit the options of its management to deploy assets and maximize income. Proposals to change the laws and regulations governing the operations and taxation of banks, bank holding companies and other financial institutions are frequently made in Congress, in state legislatures and before various bank regulatory agencies. The likelihood of any major changes and the impact such changes might have on the Corporation or the Bank is impossible to predict. The following discussion is not intended to be a complete list of all the activities regulated by the banking laws or of the impact of such laws and regulations on the Bank. It is intended only to briefly summarize some material provisions.

Capital Requirements

The Federal Reserve Board has adopted risk-based capital guidelines for banks and bank holding companies. The minimum guideline for the ratio of total capital to risk-weighted assets is 8%. At least half of the total capital is to be comprised of common stock, retained earnings, minority interests in the equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, noncumulative perpetual preferred stock and a limited amount of qualifying cumulative perpetual preferred stock, less goodwill and certain other intangibles ("Tier 1 Capital"). The remainder may consist of other preferred stock, certain other instruments and a portion of the loan loss allowance. At December 31, 2007, the Corporation's Tier 1 Capital and Total Capital ratios were 14.92% and 15.91%, respectively.

In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has established minimum leverage ratio guidelines for banks and bank holding companies. These guidelines provide for a minimum ratio of Tier 1 Capital to average total assets of 3% for banks that meet certain specified criteria, including having the highest regulatory rating. All other banks and bank holding companies generally are required to maintain a leverage ratio of at least 3% plus an additional cushion of 100 to 200 basis points. The Corporation's leverage ratio at December 31, 2007 was 8.59%.

FDICIA

Pursuant to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA"), each federal banking agency has promulgated regulations, specifying the levels at which a financial institution would be considered "well capitalized," "adequately capitalized," "undercapitalized," "significantly undercapitalized," and "critically undercapitalized," and to take certain mandatory and discretionary supervisory actions based on the capital level of the institution. The regulations implementing these provisions of FDICIA provide that a bank is defined to be "well capitalized" if it maintains a leverage ratio of at least 5%, a risk-adjusted Tier 1 capital ratio of at least 6% and a risk-adjusted total capital ratio of at least 10% and is not otherwise in a "troubled condition" as specified by its appropriate federal regulatory agency. A bank is defined to be "adequately capitalized" if it meets other minimum capital requirements. In addition, a depository institution will be considered "undercapitalized" if it fails to meet any minimum required measure, "significantly undercapitalized" if it is significantly below such measure and "critically undercapitalized" if it fails to maintain a level of tangible equity equal to not less than 2% of total assets. A depository institution may be deemed to be in a capitalization category that is lower than is indicated by its actual capital position if it receives an unsatisfactory examination rating.

Insurance Funds Legislation

The Corporation's wholly-owned subsidiary, the Peapack-Gladstone Bank, is a member of the Deposit Insurance Fund of the FDIC. The Deposit Insurance Fund was formed in 2006 when the FDIC merged the Bank Insurance Fund ("BIF") with the Savings Association Insurance Fund ("SAIF") as a requirement of the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005.

Restrictions on the Payment of Dividends

The holders of the Corporation's common stock are entitled to receive dividends, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors of the Corporation out of funds legally available. The only statutory limitation is that such dividends may not be paid when the Corporation is insolvent. Since the principal source of income for the Corporation will be dividends on Bank common stock paid to the Corporation by the Bank, the Corporation's ability to pay dividends to its shareholders will depend on whether the Bank pays dividends to it. As a practical matter, restrictions on the ability of the Bank to pay dividends act as restrictions on the amount of funds available for the payment of dividends by the Corporation. As a New Jersey chartered commercial bank, the Bank is subject to the restrictions on the payment of dividends contained in the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended (the "Banking Act"). Under the Banking Act, the Bank may pay dividends only out of retained earnings, and out of surplus to the extent that surplus exceeds 50% of stated capital. Under the Financial Institutions Supervisory Act, the FDIC has the authority to prohibit a state-chartered bank from engaging in conduct that, in the FDIC's opinion, constitutes an unsafe or unsound banking practice. Under certain circumstances, the FDIC could claim that the payment of a dividend or other distribution by the Bank to the Corporation constitutes an unsafe or unsound practice. The

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Corporation is also subject to FRB policies, which may, in certain circumstances, limit its ability to pay dividends. The FRB policies require, among other things, that a bank holding company maintain a minimum capital base. The FRB would most likely seek to prohibit any dividend payment that would reduce a holding company's capital below these minimum amounts.

Holding Company Supervision

The Corporation is a bank holding company within the meaning of the Holding Company Act. As a bank holding company, the Corporation is supervised by the FRB and is required to file reports with the FRB and provide such additional information as the FRB may require.

The Holding Company Act prohibits the Corporation, with certain exceptions, from acquiring direct or indirect ownership or control of more than five percent of the voting shares of any company which is not a bank and from engaging in any business other than that of banking, managing and controlling banks or furnishing services to subsidiary banks, except that it may, upon application, engage in, and may own shares of companies engaged in, certain businesses found by the FRB to be so closely related to banking "as to be a proper incident thereto." The Holding Company Act requires prior approval by the FRB of the acquisition by the Corporation of more than five percent of the voting stock of any additional bank. Satisfactory capital ratios, Community Reinvestment Act ratings and anti-money laundering policies are generally

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prerequisites to obtaining federal regulatory approval to make acquisitions. The policy of the FRB provides that a bank holding company is expected to act as a source of financial strength to its subsidiary bank and to commit resources to support the subsidiary bank in circumstances in which it might not do so absent that policy. Acquisitions through the Bank require the approval of the FDIC and the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance ("NJDOBI").

Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("Sarbanes-Oxley Act") added new legal requirements for public companies affecting corporate governance, accounting and corporate reporting.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act provides for, among other things:

- o a prohibition on personal loans made or arranged by the issuer to its directors and executive officers (except for loans made by a bank subject to Regulation O);
- o independence requirements for audit committee members;
- o independence requirements for company auditors;
- o certification of financial statements within the Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q by the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer;
- o the forfeiture by the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of bonuses or other incentive-based compensation and profits from the sale of an issuer's securities by such officers in the twelve month period following initial publication of any financial statements that later require restatement due to corporate misconduct;

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- o disclosure of off-balance sheet transactions;
- o two-business day filing requirements for insiders filing on Form 4;
- o disclosure of a code of ethics for financial officers and filing a Current Report on Form 8-K for a change in or waiver of such code;
- o the reporting of securities violations "up the ladder" by both in-house and outside attorneys;
- o restrictions on the use of non-GAAP financial measures in press releases and SEC filings;
- o the formation of a public accounting oversight board;
- o various increased criminal penalties for violations of securities laws;
- o an assertion by management with respect to the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting; and
- o a report by the company's external auditor on management's assertion and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

Each of the national stock exchanges, including the American Stock Exchange (AMEX) where the Corporation's securities are listed, have implemented corporate governance listing standards, including rules strengthening director independence requirements for boards, and requiring the adoption of charters for the nominating and audit committees.

USA PATRIOT Act

As part of the USA PATRIOT Act, Congress adopted the International Money Laundering Abatement and Financial Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001 (the "Anti Money Laundering Act"). The Anti Money Laundering Act authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the heads of other government agencies, to adopt special measures applicable to financial institutions such as banks, bank holding companies, broker-dealers and insurance companies. Among its other provisions, the Anti Money Laundering Act requires each financial institution: (i) to establish an anti-money laundering program; (ii) to establish due diligence policies, procedures and controls that are reasonably designed to detect and report instances of money laundering in United States private banking accounts and correspondent accounts maintained for non-United States persons or their representatives; and (iii) to avoid establishing, maintaining, administering, or managing correspondent accounts in the United States for, or on behalf of, a foreign shell bank that does not have a physical presence in any country. In addition, the Anti Money Laundering Act expands the circumstances under which funds in a bank account may be forfeited and requires covered financial institutions to respond under certain circumstances to requests for information from federal banking agencies within 120 hours.

Regulations implementing the due diligence requirements, require minimum standards to verify customer identity and maintain accurate records, encourage cooperation among financial institutions, federal banking agencies, and law enforcement authorities regarding possible money laundering or terrorist activities, prohibit the anonymous use of "concentration accounts," and requires all covered financial institutions to have in place an anti-money laundering

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compliance program. Federal and state banking agencies have strictly enforced various anti-money laundering and suspicious activity reporting requirements using formal and informal enforcement tools to cause banks to comply with these provisions.

The Anti Money Laundering Act amended the Bank Holding Company Act and the Bank Merger Act to require the federal banking agencies to consider the effectiveness of any financial institution involved in a proposed merger transaction in combating money laundering activities when reviewing an application under these acts.

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act of 1999 ("Modernization Act") became effective in early 2000. The Modernization Act:

- o allows bank holding companies meeting management, capital and Community Reinvestment Act standards to engage in a substantially broader range of non-banking activities than was previously permissible, including insurance underwriting and making merchant banking investments in commercial and financial companies;
- o allows insurers and other financial services companies to acquire banks;
- o removes various restrictions that previously applied to bank holding company ownership of securities firms and mutual fund advisory companies; and
- o establishes the overall regulatory structure applicable to bank holding companies that also engage in insurance and securities operations.

If a bank holding company elects to become a financial holding company, it files a certification, effective in 30 days, and thereafter may engage in certain financial activities without further approvals. The Corporation has not elected to become a financial holding company.

The Modernization Act modified other financial laws, including laws related to financial privacy and community reinvestment.

Item 1A. RISK FACTORS

The material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect the Corporation are described below. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones affecting the Corporation. Additional risks and uncertainties that management is not aware of or focused on or that management currently deems immaterial may also impair the Corporation's business operations. This report is qualified in its entirety by these risk factors. If any of the following risks actually occur, the Corporation's financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Changes in interest rates may adversely affect our earnings and financial condition.

Our net income depends primarily upon our net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between interest income earned on loans, investments and other interest-earning assets and the interest expense incurred on deposits and borrowed funds.

Different types of assets and liabilities may react differently, and at different times, to changes in market interest rates. We expect that we will

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periodically experience "gaps" in the interest rate sensitivities of our assets and liabilities. That means either our interest-bearing liabilities will be more sensitive to changes in market interest rates than our interest-earning assets, or vice versa. When interest-bearing liabilities mature or reprice more quickly than interest-earning assets, an increase in market rates of interest could reduce our net interest income. Likewise, when interest-earning assets mature or reprice more quickly than interest-bearing liabilities, falling interest rates could reduce our net interest income. We are unable to predict changes in market interest rates, which are affected by many factors beyond our control, including inflation, recession, unemployment, money supply, domestic and international events and changes in the United States and other financial markets.

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We may not be able to continue to grow our business, which may adversely impact our results of operations.

Our business strategy calls for continued expansion. Our ability to continue to grow depends, in part, upon our ability to open new branch locations, successfully attract deposits to existing and new branches, and identify favorable loan and investment opportunities. In the event that we do not continue to grow, our results of operations could be adversely impacted.

We may not be able to manage our growth, which may adversely impact our financial results.

As part of our expansion strategy, we plan to open new branches in our existing and target markets. However, we may be unable to identify attractive locations on terms favorable to us or to hire qualified management to operate the new branches. In addition, the organizational and overhead costs may be greater than we anticipated or we may not be able to obtain the regulatory approvals necessary to open new branches. New branches may take longer than expected to reach profitability, and we cannot assure that they will become profitable. The additional costs of starting new branches may adversely impact our financial results.

Our ability to manage growth successfully will depend on whether we can continue to fund this growth while maintaining cost controls and asset quality, as well as on factors beyond our control, such as national and regional economic conditions and interest rate trends. If we are not able to control costs and maintain asset quality, such growth could adversely impact our earnings and financial condition.

The Corporation is required by Federal regulatory authorities to maintain adequate levels of capital to support its operations. The Corporation may at some point need to raise additional capital to support continued growth. The Corporation's ability to raise additional capital, if needed, will depend on conditions in the capital markets at that time, which are outside the Corporation's control, and on its financial performance. Accordingly, the Corporation cannot assure you of its ability to raise additional capital if needed or on terms acceptable to the Corporation. If the Corporation cannot raise additional capital when needed, the ability to further expand its operations could be materially impaired.

Our exposure to credit risk could adversely affect our earnings and financial condition.

There are certain risks inherent in making loans. These risks include interest rate changes over the time period in which loans may be repaid, risks resulting from changes in the economy, risks inherent in dealing with borrowers and, in

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the case of a loan backed by collateral, risks resulting from uncertainties about the future value of the collateral.

Adverse economic and business conditions in our market area may have an adverse effect on our earnings.

Substantially all of our business is with customers located within Morris, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties and contiguous counties. Generally, we make loans to small to mid-sized businesses, most of whose success depends on the regional economy. These businesses generally have fewer financial resources in terms of capital or borrowing capacity than larger entities. Adverse economic and business conditions in our market area could reduce our growth rate, affect our borrowers' ability to repay their loans and, consequently, adversely affect our financial condition and performance. Further, we place substantial reliance on real estate as collateral for our loan portfolio. A sharp downturn in real estate values in our market area could leave many of our loans under secured. If we are required to liquidate the collateral to satisfy the debt securing a loan during a period of reduced real estate values, our earnings could be adversely affected.

If our allowance for loan losses were not sufficient to cover actual loan losses, our earnings would decrease.

We maintain an allowance for loan losses based on, among other things, national and regional economic conditions, and historical loss experience and delinquency trends among loan types. However, we cannot predict loan losses with certainty and we cannot assure you that charge-offs in future periods will not exceed the allowance for loan losses. In addition, regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, review our allowance for loan losses and may require additions to the allowance based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examination. Factors that require an increase in our allowance for loan losses could reduce our earnings.

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Competition from other financial institutions in originating loans and attracting deposits may adversely affect our profitability.

We face substantial competition in originating loans. This competition comes principally from other banks, savings institutions, mortgage banking companies and other lenders. Many of our competitors enjoy advantages, including greater financial resources and higher lending limits, a wider geographic presence, and more accessible branch office locations.

In attracting deposits, we face substantial competition from other insured depository institutions such as banks, savings institutions and credit unions, as well as institutions offering uninsured investment alternatives, including money market funds. Many of our competitors enjoy advantages, including greater financial resources, more aggressive marketing campaigns, better brand recognition and more branch locations. These competitors may offer higher interest rates than we do, which could decrease the deposits that we attract or require us to increase our rates to retain existing deposits or attract new deposits. Increased deposit competition could adversely affect our ability to generate the funds necessary for lending operations and increase our cost of funds.

We also compete with non-bank providers of financial services, such as brokerage firms, consumer finance companies, insurance companies and governmental organizations, which may offer more favorable terms. Some of our non-bank competitors are not subject to the same extensive regulations that govern our

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operations. As a result, such non-bank competitors may have advantages over us in providing certain products and services. This competition may reduce or limit our margins on banking services, reduce our market share and adversely affect our earnings and financial condition.

Government regulation significantly affects our business.

The banking industry is extensively regulated. Banking regulations are intended primarily to protect depositors, and the FDIC deposit insurance funds, not the shareholders of the Corporation. We are subject to regulation and supervision by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance and the Federal Reserve Bank. Regulatory requirements affect our lending practices, capital structure, investment practices, dividend policy and growth. The bank regulatory agencies possess broad authority to prevent or remedy unsafe or unsound practices or violations of law. We are subject to various regulatory capital requirements, which involve both quantitative measures of our assets and liabilities and qualitative judgments by regulators regarding risks and other factors. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements or comply with other regulations could result in actions by regulators that could adversely affect our ability to pay dividends or otherwise adversely impact operations. In addition, changes in laws, regulations and regulatory practices affecting the banking industry may limit the manner in which we conduct our business. Such changes may adversely affect us, including our ability to offer new products and services, obtain financing, attract deposits, make loans and achieve satisfactory spreads and impose additional costs on us.

The Bank is also subject to a number of Federal laws, which, among other things, require it to lend to various sectors of the economy and population, and establish and maintain comprehensive programs relating to anti-money laundering and customer identification. The Bank's compliance with these laws will be considered by the Federal banking regulators when reviewing bank merger and bank holding company acquisitions or commence new activities or make new investment in reliance on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. As a public company, we are also subject to the corporate governance standards set forth in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as well as any rules or regulations promulgated by the SEC or the American Stock Exchange.

Item 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

Item 2. PROPERTIES

The Corporation owns ten branches and leases 11 branches. The Corporation also owns one property adjacent to the Main Office in Peapack-Gladstone. The Corporation leases an administrative and operations office building in Peapack-Gladstone and a data center in Bedminster Township.

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Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In the normal course of its business, lawsuits and claims may be brought against the Corporation and its subsidiaries. There is no currently pending or threatened litigation or proceedings against the Corporation or its subsidiaries, which assert claims that if adversely decided, would have a material adverse effect on the Corporation.

Item 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

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None.

PART II

Item 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The Common Stock of Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation is traded on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol of PGC. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the reported high and low sale prices on known trades and cash dividends declared per share by the Corporation.

	HIGH	LOW	DIVIDEND PER SHARE
2007	-----	-----	-----
1st QUARTER	\$ 31.03	\$ 25.62	\$ 0.15
2nd QUARTER	32.47	26.78	0.15
3rd QUARTER	27.80	24.80	0.16
4th QUARTER	26.35	24.45	0.16
2006	-----	-----	-----
1st QUARTER	\$ 29.50	\$ 24.45	\$ 0.14
2nd QUARTER	26.26	23.52	0.14
3rd QUARTER	27.40	24.15	0.15
4th QUARTER	28.10	24.00	0.15

Future dividends payable by the Corporation will be determined by the Board of Directors after consideration of earnings and financial condition of the Corporation, need for capital and such other matters as the Board of Directors deems appropriate. The payment of dividends is subject to certain restrictions, see Part I, Item 1, "Description of Business - Restrictions on the Payment of Dividends."

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Performance Graph

The following graph compares the cumulative total return on a hypothetical \$100 investment made on December 31, 2002 in (a) the Corporation's common stock; (b) the Russell 3000 Stock Index, and (c) the Keefe, Bruyette & Woods KBW 50 Index (top 50 U.S. banks). The graph is calculated assuming that all dividends are reinvested during the relevant periods. The graph shows how a \$100 investment would increase or decrease in value over time, based on dividends (stock or cash) and increases or decreases in the market price of the stock.

Performance Graph

[THE FOLLOWING TABLE WAS REPRESENTED BY A LINE GRAPH IN THE PRINTED MATERIAL.]

	Period Ending				
Index	12/31/02	12/31/03	12/31/04	12/31/05	12/31/06
Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation	100.00	100.80	114.35	102.96	106.04

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Russell 3000	100.00	131.06	146.71	155.69	180.16
KBW 50	100.00	133.99	147.51	147.07	172.09

On December 31, 2007, the last reported sale price of the Common Stock was \$24.57. Also, on February 29, 2008, there were approximately 809 shareholders of record.

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Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table sets forth information for the three months ended December 31, 2007, with respect to repurchases of the Corporation's outstanding common shares:

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities				
Period	Total Number Of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchases as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that may y Be Purchased Under Plans or Program
October 1-31, 2007	700	\$ 25.62	700	76,400
November 1-30, 2007	5,050	25.19	5,050	71,350
December 1-31, 2007	3,750	24.91	3,750	67,600
Total	9,500	\$ 25.11	9,500	

On April 15, 2005, the Board of Directors of Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation announced the authorization of a stock repurchase plan. The Board authorized the purchase of up to 150,000 shares of outstanding common stock, to be made from time to time, in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, at prices not exceeding prevailing market prices. On April 19, 2007, the Board of Directors authorized another extension of the stock buyback program for an additional twelve months to April 19, 2008.

Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The information set forth in the 2007 Annual Report under the heading "Selected Consolidated Financial Data" is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The information set forth in the 2007 Annual Report under the heading "Management's Discussion and Analysis" is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

The information set forth in the 2007 Annual Report under the heading "Market Risk Sensitive Instruments" is incorporated herein by reference.

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Item 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in the 2007 Annual Report, together with the reports thereon by Crowe Chizek and Company LLC and KPMG LLP and the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, are incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

Item 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Management's Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Corporation maintains "disclosure controls and procedures" which, consistent with Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is defined to mean controls and other procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Corporation files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and to ensure that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Corporation's management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

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The Corporation's management, with the participation of its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Corporation's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on such evaluation, the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the Corporation's disclosure controls and procedures are effective as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The Corporation's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have also concluded that there have not been any changes in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting during the fourth quarter of 2007.

The Corporation's management, including the CEO and CFO, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal controls will prevent all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, provides reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. The design of a control system reflects resource constraints; the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because there are inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Corporation have been or will be detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns occur because of simple error or mistake. Controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. There can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all future conditions; over time, control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or

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deterioration in the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2007, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting is included in the 2007 Annual Report and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

Item 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information set forth under the captions "Director Information," "Corporate Governance" and "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" in the 2008 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information set forth under the captions "Executive Compensation," "Director Compensation" and "Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation" in the 2008 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

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Item 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The following table shows information at December 31, 2007 for all equity compensation plans under which shares of our common stock may be issued:

PLAN CATEGORY	NUMBER OF SECURITIES TO BE ISSUED UPON EXERCISE OF	WEIGHTED-AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE OF	NUMBER OF SECURITIES REMAINING AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS (EXCLUDING SECURITIES REFLECTED IN COLUMN (a) (c)
	OUTSTANDING OPTIONS (a)	OUTSTANDING OPTIONS (b)	
EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS APPROVED BY SECURITY HOLDERS	583,812	\$ 24.77	435,286
EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS NOT			

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APPROVED BY
SECURITY HOLDERS

N/A

N/A

N/A

TOTAL

583,812

\$ 24.77

435,286

The information set forth under the captions "Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock" and "Stock Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers" in the 2008 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information set forth under the captions "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" and "Corporate Governance" in the 2008 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information set forth under the captions "Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" and "Audit Committee Pre-approval Procedures" in the 2008 Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

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PART IV

Item 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Financial Statements and Schedules:

Those portions of the 2007 Annual Report attached hereto as Exhibit 13 contain the financial statements incorporated herein by reference.

All financial statement schedules are omitted because they are either inapplicable or not required, or because the required information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or notes thereto contained in the 2007 Annual Report.

(10) Exhibits

(3) Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws:

A. Restated Certificate of Incorporation as in effect on the date of this filing is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003.

B. By-Laws of the Registrant as in effect on the date of this filing are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003.

(10) Material Contracts:

A. "Change in Control Agreements" dated as of December 20, 2007 by and among the Corporation, the Bank and Frank A. Kissel, Craig C. Spengeman, Robert M. Rogers, Arthur F. Birmingham, Garrett P. Bromley and Finn M. W. Caspersen, Jr. are incorporated by reference.

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- B. "Split Dollar Plan for Senior Management" dated as of September 7, 2001 for Frank A. Kissel, Robert M. Rogers, Craig C. Spengeman, Arthur F. Birmingham and Garrett P. Bromley is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 (I) of the Registrant's Form 10-K Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2003. +
- C. "Directors' Retirement Plan" dated as of March 31, 2001 is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 (J) of the Registrant's Form 10-K Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2003.
- D. "Directors' Deferral Plan" dated as of March 31, 2001 is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 (K) of the Registrant's Form 10-K Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2003.
- E. Bonuses paid to executive officers under employment agreements, incorporated herein by reference to the Registrant's Report on Form 8-K/A filed on January 11, 2008.
- F. "Employment Agreements" dated as of January 1, 2008 by and among the Corporation, the Bank and Frank A. Kissel, Craig C. Spengeman, Robert M. Rogers, Arthur F. Birmingham, Garrett P. Bromley and Finn M. W. Caspersen, Jr. are incorporated by reference. +
- G. Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation Amended and Restated 1998 Stock Option Plan and Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Option Plan are incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 and Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's Form 8-K Current Report filed on January 13, 2006.
- H. Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation 2006 Long-Term Stock Incentive Plan is incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 of the Registrant's Form 10-Q Quarterly Report filed on May 10, 2006.

(13) Annual Report to Shareholders

+ Management contract and compensatory plan or arrangement.

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(21) List of Subsidiaries:

(a) Subsidiaries of the Corporation:

Name	Jurisdiction of Incorporation	Percentage of Voting Securities Owned by the Parent
Peapack-Gladstone Bank	New Jersey	100%

(b) Subsidiaries of the Bank:

Name	Jurisdiction of Incorporation	Percentage of Voting Securities Owned by the Parent
Peapack-Gladstone Investment Company, Inc.	New Jersey	100%
Peapack-Gladstone Financial		

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Services, Inc. (Inactive) New Jersey 100%

(c) Subsidiaries of Peapack-Gladstone Investment Company, Inc.:

Name

Peapack-Gladstone Mortgage
Group, Inc. New Jersey 100%

(23) Consents of Experts:

(23.1) Consent of Crowe Chizek and Company LLC

(23.2) Consent of KPMG LLP

(24) Power of Attorney

(31.1) Certification of Frank A. Kissel, Chief Executive Officer of Peapack-Gladstone, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(31.2) Certification of Arthur F. Birmingham, Chief Financial Officer of Peapack-Gladstone, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(32) Certification of Frank A. Kissel, Chief Executive Officer of Peapack-Gladstone and Arthur F. Birmingham, Chief Financial Officer of Peapack-Gladstone pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation

By: /s/ Frank A. Kissel

Frank A. Kissel
Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Arthur F. Birmingham

Arthur F. Birmingham
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: March 12, 2008

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated.

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Signature	Title	Date
----- /s/ Frank A. Kissel ----- Frank A. Kissel	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Arthur F. Birmingham ----- Arthur F. Birmingham	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Anthony J. Consi II ----- Anthony J. Consi II	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Pamela Hill ----- Pamela Hill	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ John D. Kissel ----- John D. Kissel	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ James R. Lamb ----- James R. Lamb	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Edward A. Merton ----- Edward A. Merton	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ F. Duffield Meyercord ----- F. Duffield Meyercord	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ John R. Mulcahy ----- John R. Mulcahy	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Robert M. Rogers ----- Robert M. Rogers	Director, President and Chief Operating Officer	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Philip W. Smith III ----- Philip W. Smith III	Director	March 12, 2008
----- /s/ Craig C. Spengeman ----- Craig C. Spengeman	Director, President of PGB Trust and Investments	March 12, 2008