

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD
 Form 5
 January 23, 2009

FORM 5

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0362
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 1.0

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
MORRILL MICHAEL E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
**AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD
 [AXS]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 _____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 _____ Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 CEO & President, AXIS Re US

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2008

430 PARK AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting
 (check applicable line)

NEW YORK, NY 10022

Form Filed by One Reporting Person
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

(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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Shares | 03/11/2008 | Â | G | 1,350 D \$ 0 | 211,706 | D | Â |
| Common Shares | 03/11/2008 | Â | G | 1,350 A \$ 0 | 2,753 | I | By Trust |
| Common Shares | 03/11/2008 | Â | G | 12,000 D \$ 0 | 199,706 | D | Â |
| Common Shares | 03/11/2008 | Â | G | 12,000 A \$ 0 | 12,000 | I | By Wife |

Shares

Common Shares \hat{A} \hat{A} \hat{A} \hat{A} \hat{A} \hat{A} 15,519 I By GRAT

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. **Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.** SEC 2270 (9-02)

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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MORRILL MICHAEL E 430 PARK AVENUE 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022 | \hat{A} | \hat{A} | \hat{A} | CEO & President, AXIS Re US |

Signatures

Richard T. Gieryn, Jr., 01/23/2009
Attorney-in-Fact

__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).
- Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.