

HAWTHORN BANCSHARES, INC.

Form 10-K

March 31, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission file number: 0-23636

HAWTHORN BANCSHARES, INC.

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Missouri**

**43-1626350**

*(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)  
incorporation or organization)*

132 East High Street, Box 688, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

*(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)*

(573) 761-6100

*(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)*

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:

<u>Title of Each Class</u>	<u>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</u>
None	N/A

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT:

Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share

*(Title of Class)*

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 whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). 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 to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

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

The aggregate market value of the 4,009,528 shares of voting and non-voting common equity of the registrant held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the \$12.52 closing price of such common equity on June 30, 2014, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, was \$50,199,289. Aggregate market value excludes an aggregate of 1,224,458 shares of common stock held by officers and directors and by each person known by the registrant to own 5% or more of the outstanding common stock on such date. Exclusion of shares held by any of these persons should not be construed to indicate that such person possesses the power, direct or indirect, to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of the registrant, or that such person is controlled by or under common control with the registrant. As of March 31, 2015, the registrant had 5,395,844 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, issued and 5,233,986 shares outstanding.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the following documents are incorporated by reference into the indicated parts of this report: (1) 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders - Part II and (2) definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A - Part III.

## **PART I**

### **Item 1. Business.**

This report and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements, which are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties. See "Forward Looking Statements" under Item 7 of this report.

#### **General**

The Company, Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc., is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri on October 23, 1992 as Exchange National Bancshares, Inc. and changed its name to Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. in August 2007. The Company owns all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Union State Bancshares, Inc., which in turn owns all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Hawthorn Bank. The Company and Union State Bancshares each received approval from the Federal Reserve and elected to become a financial holding company on October 21, 2001.

The Company acquired Hawthorn Bank and its constituent predecessor banks, as well as Union State Bancshares, in a series of transactions that are summarized as follows:

On April 7, 1993 the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of The Exchange National Bank of Jefferson City, a national banking association, pursuant to a corporate reorganization involving an exchange of shares;

On November 3, 1997, the Company acquired Union State Bancshares, Inc., and Union's wholly-owned subsidiary, Union State Bank and Trust of Clinton;

On January 3, 2000, the Company acquired Osage Valley Bank;

Following the May 4, 2000 acquisition of Citizens State Bank of Calhoun by Union State Bank, Citizens State Bank merged into Union State Bank to form Citizens Union State Bank & Trust;

On June 16, 2000, the Company acquired City National Savings Bank, FSB, which was then merged into Exchange National Bank; and

On May 2, 2005, the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Bank 10, a Missouri state bank.

On December 1, 2006, the Company announced its development of a strategic plan in which, among other things, Exchange National Bank, Citizens Union State Bank, Osage Valley Bank and Bank 10 would be consolidated into a single bank under a Missouri state trust charter. This consolidation was completed in October 2007, and the subsidiary bank is now known as Hawthorn Bank.

Except as otherwise provided herein, references herein to the "Company" or "Hawthorn" include Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, and references herein to the "Bank" refers to Hawthorn Bank and its constituent predecessors.

## **Description of Business**

**Company.** The Company is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act that has elected to become a financial holding company. The Company's activities currently are limited to ownership, indirectly through its subsidiary (Union State Bancshares, Inc.), of the outstanding capital stock of Hawthorn Bank. In addition to ownership of its subsidiaries, the Company may seek expansion through acquisition and may engage in those activities (such as investments in banks or operations that are financial in nature) in which it is permitted to engage under applicable law. It is not currently anticipated that the Company will engage in any business other than that directly related to its ownership of its banking subsidiary or other financial institutions.

**Union.** Union State Bancshares, Inc. is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act that has elected to become a financial holding company. Union's activities currently are limited to ownership of the outstanding capital stock of Hawthorn Bank. It is not currently anticipated that Union will engage in any business other than that directly related to its ownership of Hawthorn Bank.

**Hawthorn Bank.** Hawthorn Bank was founded in 1932 as a Missouri bank and converted to a Missouri trust company on August 16, 1989. However, its predecessors trace their lineage back to the founding of Exchange National Bank in 1865. Hawthorn Bank has 24 banking offices, including its principal office at 132 East High Street in Jefferson City's central business district. See "Item 2. Properties".

Hawthorn Bank is a full service bank conducting a general banking and trust business, offering its customers checking and savings accounts, internet banking, debit cards, certificates of deposit, trust services, brokerage services, safety deposit boxes and a wide range of lending services, including commercial and industrial loans, single payment personal loans, installment loans and commercial and residential real estate loans.

Hawthorn Bank's deposit accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") to the extent provided by law. Hawthorn Bank's operations are supervised and regulated by the FDIC and the Missouri Division of Finance. Periodic examinations of Hawthorn Bank are conducted by representatives of the FDIC and the Missouri Division of Finance. Such regulations, supervision and examinations are principally for the benefit of depositors, rather than for the benefit of the holders of Hawthorn Bank's common stock. See "Regulation Applicable to Bank Holding Companies" and "Regulation Applicable to the Bank".

**Hawthorn Real Estate.** Hawthorn Real Estate, LLC, a non-bank subsidiary of the Company, was formed in December 2008 in order to purchase and hold various nonperforming assets of Hawthorn Bank. The purpose for holding these nonperforming assets in Hawthorn Real Estate is to allow for the orderly disposition of these assets and strengthen Hawthorn Bank's financial position.

**Real Estate Holdings of Missouri, LLC.** Real Estate Holdings of Missouri, LLC, a non-bank subsidiary of the Company, was formed in March 2010 in order to purchase from Hawthorn Bank and hold parcels of foreclosed real property located in and around Kansas City, Missouri. The purpose for acquiring this foreclosed real estate in Real Estate Holdings of Missouri, LLC is to allow for the orderly, and potentially more expeditious, disposition of these assets and strengthen Hawthorn Bank's financial position.

Employees

As of December 31, 2014, Hawthorn and its subsidiaries had approximately 308 full-time and 50 part-time employees. None of its employees is presently represented by any union or collective bargaining group, and the Company considers its employee relations to be satisfactory.

## **Competition**

Bank holding companies and their subsidiaries and affiliates encounter intense competition from nonbanking as well as banking sources in all of their activities. The Bank's competitors include other commercial banks, thrifts, savings banks, credit unions, and money market mutual funds. Thrifts and credit unions now have the authority to offer checking accounts and to make corporate and agricultural loans and were granted expanded investment authority by recent federal regulations. In addition, large national and multinational corporations have in recent years become increasingly visible in offering a broad range of financial services to all types of commercial and consumer customers. In the Bank's service areas, new competitors, as well as the expanding operations of existing competitors, have had, and are expected to continue to have, an adverse impact on the Bank's market share of deposits and loans in such service areas.

The Bank experiences substantial competition for deposits and loans within both its primary service areas of Jefferson City, Columbia, Clinton, Lee's Summit, Warsaw, Springfield, and Branson, Missouri and its secondary service area of the nearby communities in Cole, Boone, Henry, Cass, Benton, and Greene counties of Missouri. Hawthorn Bank's principal competition for deposits and loans comes from other banks within its primary service areas and, to an increasing extent, other banks in nearby communities. Based on publicly available information, management believes that Hawthorn Bank is the third largest (in terms of deposits) of the thirteen banks within Cole county, the twelfth largest

(in terms of deposits) of thirty banks within Boone county, the largest (in terms of deposits) of the eight banks within Henry county, the fourth largest (in terms of deposits) of the seventeen banks within Cass county, and the second largest (in terms of deposits) of the five banks within Benton county. The main competition for Hawthorn Bank's trust services is from other commercial banks, including those of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

### **Regulation Applicable to Bank Holding Companies**

**General.** As a registered bank holding company and a financial holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act (the "BHC Act") and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (the "GLB Act"), Hawthorn is subject to supervision and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "FRB"). The FRB has authority to issue cease and desist orders against bank holding companies if it determines that their actions represent unsafe and unsound practices or violations of law. In addition, the FRB is empowered to impose civil money penalties for violations of banking statutes and regulations. Regulation by the FRB is intended to protect depositors of the Bank, not the shareholders of Hawthorn. Hawthorn also is subject to a number of restrictions and requirements imposed by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 relating to internal controls over financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures, loans to directors or executive officers of the Hawthorn and its subsidiaries, the preparation and certification of the Hawthorn's consolidated financial statements, the duties of Hawthorn's audit committee, relations with and functions performed by Hawthorn's independent auditors, and various accounting and corporate governance matters.

**Limitation on Activities.** The activities of bank holding companies are generally limited to the business of banking, managing or controlling banks, and other activities that the FRB has determined to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. In addition, under the GLB Act, a bank holding company, all of whose controlled depository institutions are "well capitalized" and "well managed" (as defined in federal banking regulations) with "satisfactory" Community Reinvestment Act ratings, may declare itself to be a "financial holding company" and engage in a broader range of activities. As noted above, Hawthorn is registered as a financial holding company.

A financial holding company may affiliate with securities firms and insurance companies and engage in other activities that are financial in nature or incidental or complementary to activities that are financial in nature. "Financial in nature" activities include:

- securities underwriting, dealing and market making;
- sponsoring mutual funds and investment companies;



insurance underwriting and insurance agency activities;

merchant banking; and

activities that the FRB determines to be financial in nature or incidental to a financial activity or which is complementary to a financial activity and does not pose a safety and soundness risk.

A financial holding company that desires to engage in activities that are financial in nature or incidental to a financial activity but not previously authorized by the FRB must obtain approval from the FRB before engaging in such activity. Also, a financial holding company may seek FRB approval to engage in an activity that is complementary to a financial activity, if it shows, among other things, that the activity does not pose a substantial risk to the safety and soundness of its insured depository institutions or the financial system.

A financial holding company generally may acquire a company (other than a bank holding company, bank or savings association) engaged in activities that are financial in nature or incidental to activities that are financial in nature without prior approval from the FRB. Prior FRB approval is required, however, before the financial holding company may acquire control of more than 5% of the voting shares or substantially all of the assets of a bank holding company, bank or savings association. In addition, under the FRB's merchant banking regulations, a financial holding company is authorized to invest in companies that engage in activities that are not financial in nature, as long as the financial holding company makes its investment with the intention of limiting the duration of the investment, does not manage the company on a day-to-day basis, and the company does not cross-market its products or services with any of the financial holding company's controlled depository institutions.

If any subsidiary bank of a financial holding company ceases to be "well-capitalized" or "well-managed" and fails to correct its condition within the time period that the FRB specifies, the FRB has authority to order the financial holding company to divest its subsidiary banks. Alternatively, the financial holding company may elect to limit its activities and the activities of its subsidiaries to those permissible for a bank holding company that is not a financial holding company. If any subsidiary bank of a financial holding company receives a rating under the Community Reinvestment Act (the "CRA") of less than "satisfactory", then the financial holding company is prohibited from engaging in new activities or acquiring companies other than bank holding companies, banks or savings associations until the rating is raised to "satisfactory" or better.

**Limitation on Acquisitions.** The BHC Act requires a bank holding company to obtain prior approval of the FRB before:

- taking any action that causes a bank to become a controlled subsidiary of the bank holding company;

acquiring direct or indirect ownership or control of voting shares of any bank or bank holding company, if the acquisition results in the acquiring bank holding company having control of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of any class of voting securities of such bank or bank holding company, and such bank or bank holding company is not majority-owned by the acquiring bank holding company prior to the acquisition;

- acquiring substantially all of the assets of a bank; or

- merging or consolidating with another bank holding company.

**Regulatory Capital Requirements.** The FRB has issued risk-based and leverage capital guidelines applicable to United States banking organizations. If a bank holding company's capital falls below minimum required levels, then the bank holding company must implement a plan to increase its capital, and its ability to pay dividends and make acquisitions of new bank subsidiaries may be restricted or prohibited. As discussed below under "Changes in Laws and Monetary Policies - Recent Amendments to Regulatory Capital Requirements," new risk-based and leverage capital guidelines went into effect on January 1, 2015. As of December 31, 2014, the FRB's risk-based guidelines defined a two-tier capital framework. Tier 1 capital generally included common shareholders' equity, a limited amount of trust preferred securities, minority interests and qualifying preferred stock, less goodwill and other adjustments. Tier 2 capital generally consisted of preferred stock not qualifying as Tier 1 capital, mandatory convertible debt, limited amounts of subordinated debt, other qualifying term debt and the allowance for credit losses up to 1.25% of risk-weighted assets and other adjustments. The sum of Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital less investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries represented the total capital.

Prior to January 1, 2015, the risk-based capital ratios were calculated by dividing Tier 1 and total capital by risk-weighted assets (including certain off-balance sheet activities). The FRB's capital adequacy guidelines required

that bank holding companies maintain a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio equal to at least 4% of its risk-weighted assets and a total risk-based capital ratio equal to at least 8% of its risk-weighted assets. In addition, the FRB established a minimum leverage ratio for bank holding companies. Prior to January 1, 2015, the FRB's capital adequacy guidelines required that bank holding companies meeting specified criteria (including having the highest regulatory rating) maintain a Tier 1 leverage ratio equal to at least 3% of its average total consolidated assets. All other bank holding companies generally were required to maintain a Tier 1 leverage ratio of at least 4%.

On December 31, 2014, Hawthorn was in compliance with the FRB's capital adequacy guidelines. Hawthorn's capital ratios on December 31, 2014 and the minimum requirements as of that date are shown below:

<b>Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio</b>	<b>Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio</b>
<b><u>(3% minimum requirement)</u></b>	<b><u>(4% minimum requirement)</u></b>	<b><u>(8% minimum requirement)</u></b>
9.42%	12.38%	15.78%

See "Changes in Laws and Monetary Policies - Recent Amendments to Regulatory Capital Requirements" below for a discussion of the new risk-based and leverage capital guidelines that went into effect on January 1, 2015.

**Basel I, Basel II and Basel III Accords.** The risk-based capital guidelines that applied to us and our subsidiary bank as of December 31, 2014 were based on the 1988 capital accord, referred to as Basel I, of the International Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (which we refer to as the "Basel Committee"), a committee of central banks and bank supervisors, as implemented by federal bank regulators. In 2008, the bank regulatory agencies began to phase-in capital standards based on a second capital accord issued by the Basel Committee, referred to as Basel II, for large or "core" international banks (generally defined for U.S. purposes as having total assets of \$250 billion or more or consolidated foreign exposures of \$10 billion or more). Because we do not anticipate controlling any large or "core" international bank in the foreseeable future, Basel II does not apply to us. On September 12, 2010, the Group of Governors and Heads of Supervision, the oversight body of the Basel Committee, announced agreement on the calibration and phase-in arrangements for a strengthened set of capital requirements, known as Basel III. In July 2013, the federal banking agencies announced new risk-based capital and leverage ratios to conform to the Basel III framework and address provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. With respect to the Company and the Bank, these requirements become effective on January 1, 2015. See "Changes in Laws and Monetary Policies - Recent Amendments to Regulatory Capital Requirements" below for a discussion of these new Basel III requirements.

**Interstate Banking and Branching.** Under the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994 (the "Riegle-Neal Act"), a bank holding company is permitted to acquire the stock or substantially all of the assets of banks located in any state regardless of whether such transaction is prohibited under the laws of any state. The FRB will not approve an interstate acquisition if, as a result of the acquisition, the bank holding company would control more than 10% of the total amount of insured deposits in the United States or would control more than 30% of the insured deposits in the home state of the acquired bank. The 30% of insured deposits state limit does not apply if the acquisition is the initial entry into a state by a bank holding company or if the home state waives such limit. The Riegle-Neal Act also authorizes banks to merge across state lines, thereby creating interstate branches. The Bank and Savings Association Holding Company and Depository Institution Regulatory Improvements Act of 2010, a subset of the Dodd-Frank Act discussed below, permits banks to acquire and establish de novo branches in other states if a state bank in that other state would be permitted to establish the branch.

Under the Riegle-Neal Act, individual states may restrict interstate acquisitions in two ways. A state may prohibit an out-of-state bank holding company from acquiring a bank located in the state unless the target bank has been in existence for a specified minimum period of time (not to exceed five years). A state may also establish limits on the total amount of insured deposits within the state which are controlled by a single bank holding company, provided that such deposit limit does not discriminate against out-of-state bank holding companies.

**Source of Strength.** Bank holding companies, such as the Company, are required by statute to serve as a source of financial strength for their subsidiary depository institutions, by providing financial assistance to their insured depository institution subsidiaries in the event of financial distress. Under the source of strength requirement, the Company could be required to provide financial assistance to the Bank should it experience financial distress. Furthermore, the FRB has the right to order a bank holding company to terminate any activity that the FRB believes is a serious risk to the financial safety, soundness or stability of any subsidiary bank. The regulators may require these and other actions in support of controlled banks even if such action is not in the best interests of the bank holding company or its stockholders.

**Liability of Commonly Controlled Institutions.** Under cross-guaranty provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (the "FDIA"), bank subsidiaries of a bank holding company are liable for any loss incurred by the Deposit Insurance Fund (the "DIF"), the federal deposit insurance fund for banks, in connection with the failure of any other bank subsidiary of the bank holding company.

**Bank Secrecy Act and USA PATRIOT Act.** The Company and the Bank must comply with the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act (the "BSA"). The BSA was enacted to prevent banks and other financial service providers from being used as intermediaries for, or to hide the transfer or deposit of money derived from, drug trafficking, money laundering, and other crimes. Since its passage, the BSA has been amended several times. These amendments include the Money Laundering Control Act of 1986, which made money laundering a criminal act, as well as the Money Laundering Suppression Act of 1994, which required regulators to develop enhanced examination procedures and increased examiner training to improve the identification of money laundering schemes in financial institutions. The USA PATRIOT Act, established in 2001, substantially broadened the scope of U.S. anti-money laundering laws and regulations by imposing significant new compliance and due diligence obligations, creating new crimes and penalties

and expanding the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the United States. The regulations impose obligations on financial institutions to maintain appropriate policies, procedures and controls to detect, prevent, and report money laundering and terrorist financing. The regulations include significant penalties for non-compliance.

**Missouri Bank Holding Company Regulation.** Missouri prohibits any bank holding company from acquiring ownership or control of any bank or Missouri depository trust company that has Missouri deposits if, after such acquisition, the bank holding company would hold or control more than 13% of total Missouri deposits. Because of this restriction, among others, a bank holding company, prior to acquiring control of a bank or depository trust company that has deposits in Missouri, must receive the approval of the Missouri Division of Finance.

#### Regulation Applicable to the Bank

**General.** Hawthorn Bank, a Missouri state non-member depository trust company, is subject to the regulation of the Missouri Division of Finance and the FDIC. The FDIC is empowered to issue cease and desist orders against the Bank if it determines that any activities of the Bank represent unsafe and unsound banking practices or violations of law. In addition, the FDIC has the power to impose civil money penalties for violations of banking statutes and regulations. Regulation by these agencies is designed to protect the depositors of the Bank; not shareholders of Hawthorn.

**Bank Regulatory Capital Requirements.** The FDIC has adopted minimum capital requirements applicable to state non-member banks, which are similar to the capital adequacy guidelines established by the FRB for bank holding companies. As of December 31, 2014, Federal banking laws classified an insured financial institution in one of the following five categories, depending upon the amount of its regulatory capital:

"well-capitalized" if it has a total Tier 1 leverage ratio of 5% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6% or greater and a total risk-based capital ratio of 10% or greater (and is not subject to any order or written directive requiring the bank to adhere to a higher capital ratio);

"adequately capitalized" if it has a total Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4% or greater (or a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 3% or greater, if the bank has a Capital adequacy, Asset quality, Management, Liquidity, and Sensitivity to market risk (CAMELS) rating of 1), a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 4% or greater, and a total risk-based capital ratio of 8% or greater;

"undercapitalized" if it has a total Tier 1 leverage ratio that is less than 4% (or a Tier 1 leverage ratio that is less than 3%, if the bank has a CAMELS rating of 1), a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio that is less than 4% or a total risk-based capital ratio that is less than 8%;

"significantly undercapitalized" if it has a total Tier 1 leverage ratio that is less than 3%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio that is less than 3% or a total risk-based ratio that is less than 6%; and

"critically undercapitalized" if it has a Tier 1 leverage ratio that is equal to or less than 2%.

Federal regulatory agencies are required to take prompt corrective action against undercapitalized financial institutions. On December 31, 2014, the Bank was classified as "well-capitalized," which is required for Hawthorn to remain a financial holding company. The capital ratios and classifications of the Bank as of December 31, 2014 and the minimum requirements as of such date are shown on the following chart.

<b>Leverage Ratio</b>	<b>Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio</b>	<b>Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio</b>
<b><u>(5% minimum requirement)</u></b>	<b><u>(6% minimum requirement)</u></b>	<b><u>(10% minimum requirement)</u></b>
10.42%	13.74%	14.78%

In July 2013, the federal banking agencies announced new risk-based capital and leverage ratios to conform to the Basel III framework and address provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. With respect to the Company and the Bank, these requirements became effective on January 1, 2015. See "Changes in Laws and Monetary Policies - Recent Amendments to Regulatory Capital Requirements" below for a discussion of these new Basel III requirements.

**Limitations on Interest Rates and Loans to One Borrower.** The rate of interest a bank may charge on certain classes of loans is limited by state and federal law. At certain times in the past, these limitations have resulted in reductions of net interest margins on certain classes of loans. Federal and state laws impose additional restrictions on the lending activities of banks. The maximum amount that a Missouri state-chartered bank may lend to any one person or entity is generally limited to 15% of the unimpaired capital of the bank located in a city having a population of 100,000 or more, 20% of the unimpaired capital of the bank located in a city having a population of less than 100,000 and over 7,000, and 25% of the unimpaired capital of the bank if located elsewhere in the state. In the case of Missouri state-chartered banks with a composite rating of 1 or 2 under the Capital, Assets, Management, Earnings, Liquidity and Sensitivity (CAMELS) rating system, the maximum amount is the greater of (i) the limits listed in the foregoing sentence or (ii) 25% of the unimpaired capital of the bank.

**Payment of Dividends.** The Company's primary source of funds is dividends from the Bank, and the Bank is subject to federal and state laws limiting the payment of dividends. Under the FDIA, an FDIC-insured institution may not pay dividends while it is undercapitalized or if payment would cause it to become undercapitalized. The National Bank Act and Missouri banking law also prohibit the declaration of a dividend out of the capital and surplus of the bank.

**Community Reinvestment Act.** The Bank is subject to the CRA and implementing regulations. The CRA regulations establish the framework and criteria by which the bank regulatory agencies assess an institution's record of helping to meet the credit needs of its community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. CRA ratings are taken into account by regulators in reviewing certain applications made by Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary.

**Limitations on Transactions with Affiliates.** Hawthorn and its non-bank subsidiaries are "affiliates" within the meaning of the Federal Reserve Act. The amount of loans or extensions of credit which the Bank may make to non-bank affiliates, or to third parties secured by securities or obligations of the non-bank affiliates, are substantially limited by the Federal Reserve Act and the FDIA. Such acts further restrict the range of permissible transactions between a bank and an affiliated company. A bank and its subsidiaries may engage in certain transactions, including loans and purchases of assets, with an affiliated company only if the terms and conditions of the transaction, including credit standards, are substantially the same as, or at least as favorable to the bank as, those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with non-affiliated companies or, in the absence of comparable transactions, on terms and conditions that would be offered to non-affiliated companies.

**Other Banking Activities.** The investments and activities of the Bank are also subject to regulation by federal and state banking agencies regarding, among other things, investments in subsidiaries, investments for their own account (including limitations on investments in junk bonds and equity securities), loans to officers, directors and their affiliates, security requirements, anti-tying limitations, anti-money laundering, financial privacy and customer identity verification requirements, truth-in-lending, the types of interest bearing deposit accounts which it can offer, trust department operations, brokered deposits, audit requirements, issuance of securities, branching and mergers and acquisitions.



Changes in Laws and Monetary Policies

**Recent Amendments to Regulatory Capital Requirements.** In July 2013, the federal banking agencies approved amendments to their regulatory capital rules to conform them to the international regulatory standards agreed to by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in the accord often referred to as "Basel III". The revisions establish new higher capital ratio requirements, tighten the definitions of capital, impose new operating restrictions on banking organizations with insufficient capital buffers and increase the risk weighting of certain assets. The new capital requirements apply to all banks and savings associations, bank holding companies with more than \$500 million in assets and all savings and loan holding companies (other than certain savings and loan holding companies engaged in insurance underwriting and grandfathered diversified holding companies) regardless of asset size. The rules became effective for institutions with assets over \$250 billion and internationally active institutions starting in January 2014 and became effective for all other institutions beginning in January 2015. The following discussion summarizes the changes which are believed most likely to affect the Company and the Bank.

***New and Higher Capital Requirements.*** The regulations establish a new capital measure called "Common Equity Tier 1 Capital" which consists of common stock instruments and related surplus (net of treasury stock), retained earnings, accumulated other comprehensive income and, subject to certain adjustments, minority common equity interests in subsidiaries. Unlike the rules in effect immediately prior to January 1,

2015, which excluded unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale debt securities from regulatory capital, the amended rules require accumulated other comprehensive income to flow through to regulatory capital unless a one-time, irrevocable opt-out election is made in the first regulatory reporting period under the new rule. Effective January 1, 2015, depository institutions and their holding companies are required to maintain Common Equity Tier 1 Capital equal to at least 4.5% of risk-weighted assets.

The amended regulations increased the required ratio of Tier 1 Capital to risk-weighted assets from 4% to 6%. Tier 1 Capital now consists of Common Equity Tier 1 Capital plus Additional Tier 1 Capital elements which includes non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock. Cumulative preferred stock (other than cumulative preferred stock issued to the U.S. Treasury under the Capital Purchase Program or the Small Business Lending Fund) no longer qualifies as Additional Tier 1 Capital. Trust preferred securities and other non-qualifying capital instruments issued prior to May 19, 2010 by bank and savings and loan holding companies with less than \$15 billion in assets as of December 31, 2009 or by mutual holding companies may continue to be included in Tier 1 Capital but will be phased out over 10 years beginning in 2016 for all other banking organizations. These non-qualifying capital instruments, however, may be included in Tier 2 Capital which may also include qualifying subordinated debt. The amended regulations also require a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4% for all institutions, eliminating the 3% option for institutions with the highest supervisory ratings. The minimum required ratio of total capital to risk-weighted assets remains at 8%.

***Capital Conservation Buffer Requirement.*** In addition to higher capital requirements, depository institutions and their holding companies will be required to maintain a common equity Tier 1 capital conservation buffer of at least 2.5% of risk-weighted assets over and above the minimum risk-based capital requirements. Institutions that do not maintain the required capital buffer will become subject to progressively more stringent limitations on the percentage of earnings that can be paid out in dividends or used for stock repurchases and on the payment of discretionary bonuses to senior executive management. The capital conservation buffer requirement will be phased in over four years beginning in 2016. The capital conservation buffer requirement effectively raises the minimum required risk-based capital ratios to 7% Common Equity Tier 1 Capital, 8.5% Tier 1 Capital and 10.5% Total Capital on a fully phased-in basis.

***Changes to Prompt Corrective Action Capital Categories.*** The Prompt Corrective Action rules were amended effective January 1, 2015 to incorporate a Common Equity Tier 1 Capital requirement and to raise the capital requirements for certain capital categories. In order to be adequately capitalized for purposes of the prompt corrective action rules, a banking organization is required to have at least an 8% Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio, a 6% Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio, a 4.5% Common Equity Tier 1 Risk Based Capital Ratio and a 4% Tier 1 Leverage Ratio. To be well capitalized, a banking organization is required to have at least a 10% Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio, an 8% Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio, a 6.5% Common Equity Tier 1 Risk Based Capital Ratio and a 5% Tier 1 Leverage Ratio.

***Additional Deductions from Capital.*** Banking organizations are required to deduct goodwill and other intangible assets (other than certain mortgage servicing assets), net of associated deferred tax liabilities, from Common Equity Tier 1 Capital. Deferred tax assets arising from temporary timing differences that cannot be realized through net

operating loss (NOL) carrybacks continue to be deducted. Deferred tax assets that can be realized through NOL carrybacks are not be deducted but will be subject to 100% risk weighting. Defined benefit pension fund assets, net of any associated deferred tax liability, are deducted from Common Equity Tier 1 Capital unless the banking organization has unrestricted and unfettered access to such assets. Reciprocal cross-holdings of capital instruments in any other financial institutions are deducted from capital, not just holdings in other depository institutions. For this purpose, financial institutions are broadly defined to include securities and commodities firms, hedge and private equity funds and non-depository lenders. Banking organizations are required to deduct non-significant investments (less than 10% of outstanding stock) in the capital of other financial institutions (including investments in trust preferred securities) to the extent these exceed 10% of Common Equity Tier 1 Capital subject to a 15% of Common Equity Tier 1 Capital cap. Greater than 10% investments must be deducted if they exceed 10% of Common Equity Tier 1 Capital. If the aggregate amount of certain items excluded from capital deduction due to a 10% threshold exceeds 17.65% of Common Equity Tier 1 Capital, the excess must be deducted.

**Changes in Risk-Weightings.** The federal banking agencies did not adopt a proposed rule that would have significantly changed the risk-weighting for residential mortgages. Instead, the amended regulations continue to follow the capital rules in effect as of December 31, 2014, which assign a 50% risk-weighting to "qualifying mortgage loans" which generally consist of residential first mortgages with an 80% loan-to-value ratio (or which carry mortgage insurance that reduces the bank's exposure to 80%) that are not more than 90 days past due. All other mortgage loans have a 100% risk weight. The revised regulations apply a 250% risk-weighting to mortgage servicing rights, deferred tax assets that cannot be realized through NOL carrybacks and investments in the capital instruments of other financial institutions that are not deducted from capital. The revised regulations also create a new 150% risk-weighting category for "high volatility commercial real estate loans" which are credit facilities for the acquisition, construction or development of real property other than for certain community development projects, agricultural land and one- to four-family residential properties or commercial real projects where: (i) the loan-to-value ratio is not in excess of interagency real estate lending standards; and (ii) the borrower has contributed capital equal to not less than 15% of the real estate's "as completed" value before the loan is made.

Although the Company continues to assess the impact of the new rules, management believes that, as of January 1, 2015, the Company's and the Bank's capital levels would remain "well-capitalized" under the new rules.

**Recent Legislation.** Various pieces of legislation, including proposals to change substantially the financial institution regulatory system, are from time to time introduced and considered by the Missouri state legislature and the United States Congress. In July 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), which enacted substantial changes to the legal framework of the entire financial services industry. The Dodd-Frank Act mandates the passage of numerous rules and regulations by various regulatory agencies over the next few years. It also creates the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which will overtake supervision of most providers of consumer financial products and services, and will be empowered to declare acts or practices related to the delivery of a consumer financial product or service to be "unfair, deceptive or abusive." This law will continue to change banking regulation and the operating environment of Hawthorn in substantial and unpredictable ways. These changes could increase or decrease the cost of doing business, limit or expand permissible activities or affect the competitive balance among banks, savings associations, credit unions and other financial institutions. Hawthorn cannot predict the impact that the Dodd-Frank Act, and the various regulations issued thereunder will have on its business.

**Fiscal Monetary Policies.** Hawthorn's business and earnings are affected significantly by the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies. Hawthorn is particularly affected by the policies of the FRB, which regulates the supply of money and credit in the United States. Among the instruments of monetary policy available to the FRB are:

- conducting open market operations in United States government securities;
- changing the discount rates of borrowings of depository institutions;

- imposing or changing reserve requirements against depository institutions' deposits; and
- imposing or changing reserve requirements against certain borrowings by bank and their affiliates.

These methods are used in varying degrees and combinations to directly affect the availability of bank loans and deposits, as well as the interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. The policies of the FRB have a material effect on Hawthorn's business, results of operations and financial condition.

The references in the foregoing discussion to various aspects of statutes and regulation are merely summaries, which do not purport to be complete and which are qualified in their entirety by reference to the actual statutes and regulations.

## Available Information

The address of the Company's principal executive offices is 132 East High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 and the telephone number at this location is (573)761-6100. The Company's common stock trades on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "HWBK".

We electronically file certain documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We file annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K (as appropriate), along with any related amendments and supplements. From time-to-time, we also may file registration and related statements pertaining to equity or debt offerings. You may read and download the Company's SEC filings over the internet from several commercial document retrieval services as well as at the SEC's internet website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). You may also read and copy the Company's SEC filings at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information concerning the public reference room and any applicable copy charges.

The Company's internet website address is [www.hawthornbancshares.com](http://www.hawthornbancshares.com). Under the "Documents" menu tab of the Company's website ([www.hawthornbancshares.com](http://www.hawthornbancshares.com)), we make available, without charge, the Company's public filings with the SEC, including the Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, or any amendments to those reports filed or furnished to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Please note that any internet addresses provided in this report are for information purposes only and are not intended to be hyperlinks. Accordingly, no information found and/or provided at such internet addresses is intended or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

### **Risk Factors**

We are identifying important risks and uncertainties that could affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition or business and that could cause them to differ materially from the Company's historical results of operations, financial condition or business, or those contemplated by forward-looking statements made herein or elsewhere, by, or on behalf of, the Company. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those factors described below. The risk factors highlighted below are not necessarily the only ones that the Company faces.

**Because We Primarily Serve Central And West Central Missouri, A Decline In The Local Economic Conditions Could Lower The Company's Profitability.** The profitability of Hawthorn is dependent on the profitability of its banking subsidiary, which operates out of central and west central Missouri. The financial condition of this bank is affected by fluctuations in the economic conditions prevailing in the portion of Missouri in which its operations are located. Accordingly, the financial conditions of both Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary would be adversely affected by deterioration in the general economic and real estate climate in Missouri.

An increase in unemployment, a decrease in profitability of regional businesses or real estate values or an increase in interest rates are among the factors that could weaken the local economy. With a weaker local economy:

- customers may not want or need the products and services of the Bank,
- borrowers may be unable to repay their loans,
- the value of the collateral security of the Bank's loans to borrowers may decline,
- the number of loan delinquencies and foreclosures may increase, and
- the overall quality of the Bank's loan portfolio may decline.

Originating mortgage loans and consumer loans is a significant source of profits for Hawthorn's banking subsidiary. If individual customers in the local area do not want or need these loans, profits may decrease. Although the Bank could make other investments, the Bank may earn less revenue on these investments than on loans. Also, the Bank's losses on loans may increase if borrowers are unable to make payments on their loans.

**Interest Rate Changes May Reduce The Profitability Of The Company And Of The Bank.** The primary source of earnings for Hawthorn's banking subsidiary is net interest income. To be profitable, the Bank has to earn more money in interest and fees on loans and other interest-earning assets than it pays as interest on deposits and other interest-bearing liabilities and as other expenses. If prevailing interest rates decrease, the amount of interest the Bank earn on loans and investment securities may decrease more rapidly than the amount of interest the Bank has to pay on deposits and other interest-bearing liabilities. This would result in a decrease in the profitability of Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary.

Changes in the level or structure of interest rates also affect:

- the Bank's ability to originate loans,
- the value of the Bank's loan and securities portfolios,
- the Bank's ability to realize gains from the sale of loans and securities,
- the average life of the Bank's deposits, and
- the Bank's ability to obtain deposits.

Fluctuations in interest rates will ultimately affect both the level of income and expense recorded on a large portion of the Bank's assets and liabilities, and the fair value of all interest-earning assets, other than interest-earning assets that mature in the short term. The Bank's interest rate management strategy is designed to stabilize net interest income and preserve capital over a broad range of interest rate movements by matching the interest rate sensitivity of assets and liabilities. Although Hawthorn believes that its Bank's current mix of loans, mortgage-backed securities, investment securities and deposits is reasonable, significant fluctuations in interest rates may have a negative effect on the profitability of the Bank.

**Our Business Depends On Our Ability To Successfully Manage Credit Risk.** The operation of our business requires us to manage credit risk. As a lender, our banking subsidiary is exposed to the risk that borrowers will be unable to repay their loans according to their terms, and that the collateral securing repayment of their loans, if any, may not be sufficient to ensure repayment. In addition, there are risks inherent in making any loan, including risks with respect to the period of time over which the loan may be repaid, risks relating to proper loan underwriting, risks resulting from changes in economic and industry conditions and risks inherent in dealing with individual borrowers. In order to successfully manage credit risk, we must, among other things, maintain disciplined and prudent underwriting standards and ensure that our loan officers follow those standards. The weakening of these standards for any reason, such as an attempt to attract higher yielding loans, a lack of discipline or diligence by our employees in underwriting



and monitoring loans, the inability of our employees to adequately adapt policies and procedures to changes in economic or any other conditions affecting borrowers and the quality of our loan portfolio, may result in loan defaults, foreclosures and additional charge-offs and may necessitate that we significantly increase our allowance for loan losses, each of which could adversely affect our net income. As a result, our inability to successfully manage credit risk could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

**The Company's Profitability Depends On The Bank's Asset Quality And Lending Risks.** Success in the banking industry largely depends on the quality of loans and other assets. The loan officers of Hawthorn's banking subsidiary are actively encouraged to identify deteriorating loans. Loans are also monitored and categorized through an analysis of their payment status. The Bank's failure to timely and accurately monitor the quality of its loans and other assets could have a materially adverse effect on the operations and financial condition of Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary. There is a degree of credit risk associated with any lending activity. The Bank attempts to minimize its credit risk through loan diversification. Although the Bank's loan portfolio is varied, with no undue concentration in any one industry, substantially all of the loans in the portfolio have been made to borrowers in central, west central, and southwest Missouri. Therefore, the loan portfolio is susceptible to factors affecting the central, west central, and southwest Missouri area and the level of non-performing assets is heavily dependent upon local conditions. There can be no assurance that the level of the Bank's non-performing assets will not increase above current levels. High levels of non-performing assets could have a materially adverse effect on the operations and financial condition of Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary.

**The Provision For Probable Loan Losses May Need To Be Increased.** Hawthorn's banking subsidiary makes a provision for loan losses based upon management's estimate of probable losses in the loan portfolio and its consideration of prevailing economic and environmental conditions. The amount of future loan losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating and other conditions, including changes in interest rates, which may be beyond the Company's control, and these losses may exceed current estimates. We cannot fully predict the amount or timing of losses or whether the loss allowance will be adequate in the future. The Bank may need to increase the provision for loan losses through additional provisions in the future if, among other things, the financial condition of any of its borrowers deteriorates, if its borrower fails to perform its obligations to it, or if real estate values decline. Furthermore, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Bank's loan portfolio, provision for loan losses, and real estate acquired by foreclosure. Such agencies may require the Bank to recognize additions to the provision for loan losses based on their judgments of information available to them at the time of the examination. Any additional provision for probable loan losses, whether required as a result of regulatory review or initiated by Hawthorn itself, may materially alter the financial outlook of Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary and may have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

**Adverse Market Conditions In The U.S. Economy And The Markets In Which We Operate Could Adversely Impact The Company's Business.** General downward economic trends, reduced availability of commercial credit, and increasing unemployment have negatively impacted the credit performance of commercial and consumer credit, resulting in additional write-downs. Concerns over the stability of the financial markets and the economy have resulted in decreased lending by financial institutions to their customers and to each other. This market turmoil and tightening of credit has led to increased commercial and consumer deficiencies, lack of customer confidence, increased market volatility and widespread reduction in general business activity. Competition among depository institutions for deposits has increased significantly. Financial institutions have experienced decreased access to deposits or borrowings.

Although there has been a modest recovery in the domestic economy, the recovery is weak and there can be no assurance that the economy will not enter into another recession, whether in the near or long term future. Furthermore, real estate values and the demand for commercial real estate loans have not fully recovered, and reduced availability of commercial credit and continuing unemployment have negatively impacted the credit performance of commercial and consumer credit. Additional market developments such as a relapse or worsening of economic conditions in other parts of the world would likely exacerbate the lingering effects of the difficult market conditions experienced by us and others in the financial services industry and could further slow, stall or reverse the slow recovery in the U.S. A further deterioration of overall market conditions, a continuation of the economic downturn or prolonged economic stagnation in the Company's markets may have a negative impact on its business, financial condition, results of operations and the trading price of its common stock. If the strength of the U.S. economy in general and the strength of the economy in areas where we lend were to stagnate or decline, this could result in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality or a reduced demand for credit, including a resultant adverse effect on the Company's loan portfolio and provision for losses on loans. This may exacerbate the Company's exposure to credit risk, impair the Company's ability to assess the creditworthiness of its customers or to estimate the values of its assets and adversely affect the ability of borrowers to perform under the terms of their lending arrangements with us. Negative conditions in the real estate markets where we operate could adversely affect borrowers' ability to repay their loans and the value of the underlying collateral. Real estate values are affected by various factors, including general economic conditions, governmental rules or policies and natural disasters. These factors may adversely impact

borrowers' ability to make required payments, which in turn, may negatively impact the Company's financial results. As a result of the difficult market and economic conditions referred to above, there is a potential for new federal or state laws and regulations regarding lending and funding practices and liquidity standards, and for bank regulatory agencies to be very aggressive in responding to concerns and trends identified in examinations. This increased government action may increase costs and limit the Company's ability to pursue certain business opportunities.

We cannot predict whether the difficult market and economic conditions will improve in the near future. A worsening of these conditions would likely exacerbate the adverse effects of these difficult conditions on the Company, its customers and the other financial institutions in its market. As a result, we may experience increases in foreclosures, delinquencies and customer bankruptcies, as well as more restricted access to funds, and the Company's business, financial condition, results of operations and stock price may be adversely affected.

**The Soundness Of Other Financial Institutions Could Adversely Affect Us.** The Company's ability to engage in routine funding transactions could be adversely affected by the actions and commercial soundness of other financial institutions. Financial services institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty or other relationships. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial industry, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, mutual and hedge funds, and other institutional clients. As a result, defaults by, or even rumors or questions about, one or more financial services institutions, or the financial services industry generally, have led to market-wide liquidity problems and could lead to losses or defaults by us or by other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of a counterparty or client. In addition, the Company's credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due us. There is no assurance that any such losses would not materially and adversely affect the Company's results of operations.

**Deterioration In The Housing Market Could Cause Further Increases In Delinquencies And Non-Performing Assets, Including Loan Charge-Offs, And Depress The Company's Income And Growth.** The volume of one-to-four family residential mortgages and home equity lines of credit may decrease during economic downturns as a result of, among other things, a decrease in real estate values, an increase in unemployment, a slowdown in housing price appreciation or increases in interest rates. These factors could reduce earnings and consequently the Company's financial condition because:

• borrowers may not be able to repay their loans;

• the value of the collateral securing loans may decline further;

• the quality of the Company's loan portfolio may decline further; and

• customers may not want or need the Company's products and services.

Any of these scenarios could cause an increase in delinquencies and non-performing assets, require us to charge-off a higher percentage of loans, increase substantially the provision for losses on loans, or make fewer loans, which would reduce income.

**The FDIC's Changes in the Calculation of Deposit Insurance Premiums and Ability to Levy Special Assessments Could Increase The Company's Non-Interest Expense And May Reduce Its Profitability.** The range of base assessment rates currently varies from 12 to 45 basis points depending on an institution's risk category, with newly added financial measures resulting in increased assessment rates for institutions heavily relying on brokered deposits to support rapid asset growth. However, the Dodd-Frank Act requires the FDIC to amend its regulations to redefine the assessment base used for calculating deposit insurance assessments. On February 9, 2011,

the FDIC adopted a final rule that defines the assessment base as the average consolidated total assets during the assessment period minus the average tangible equity of the insured depository institution during the assessment period. The FDIC also imposed a new assessment rate scale. Under the new system, banks will pay assessments at a rate between 5 and 35 basis points per assets minus tangible equity, depending upon an institution's risk category (the final rule also includes progressively lower assessment rate schedules when the FDIC's reserve ratio reaches certain levels). The rulemaking changes the current assessment rate schedule so the schedule will result in the collection of assessment revenue that is approximately the same as generated under the current rate schedule and current assessment base. Nearly all banks with assets less than \$10 billion will pay smaller deposit insurance assessments as a result of the new rule. The majority of the changes in the FDIC's final rule became effective on April 1, 2011. The FDIC has the statutory authority to impose special assessments on insured depository institutions in an amount, and for such purposes, as the FDIC may deem necessary. The change in the calculation methodology for deposit insurance premiums and the possible emergency special assessments could increase non-interest expense and may adversely affect the Company's profitability.

**We May Elect Or Be Compelled To Seek Additional Capital In The Future, But That Capital May Not Be Available When It Is Needed.** We are required by regulatory authorities to maintain adequate levels of capital to support operations. In addition, we may elect to raise additional capital to support the growth of the Company's business or to finance acquisitions, if any, or we may elect to raise additional capital for other reasons. In that regard, a number of financial institutions have recently raised considerable amounts of capital as a result of a deterioration in their results of operations and financial condition arising from the turmoil in the mortgage loan market, deteriorating economic conditions, declines in real estate values and other factors. Should we elect or be required by regulatory authorities to raise additional capital, we may seek to do so through the issuance of, among other things, common stock or securities

convertible into common stock, which could dilute your ownership interest in the Company. Although we remain "well-capitalized" and have not had a deterioration in liquidity, the future cost and availability of capital may be adversely affected by illiquid credit markets, economic conditions and a number of other factors, many of which are outside of the Company's control. Accordingly, we cannot assure you of the ability to raise additional capital if needed or on terms acceptable to us. If we cannot raise additional capital when needed or on terms acceptable to us, it may have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

**If We Are Unable To Successfully Compete For Customers In The Company's Market Area, The Company's Financial Condition And Results Of Operations Could Be Adversely Affected.** Hawthorn's banking subsidiary faces substantial competition in making loans, attracting deposits and providing other financial products and services. The Bank has numerous competitors for customers in its market area.

Such competition for loans comes principally from:

- other commercial banks
- mortgage banking companies
- savings banks
- finance companies
- savings and loan associations
- credit unions

Competition for deposits comes principally from:

- other commercial banks
- brokerage firms
- savings banks
- insurance companies
- savings and loan associations
- money market mutual funds
- credit unions
- mutual funds (such as corporate and government securities funds)

Many of these competitors have greater financial resources and name recognition, more locations, more advanced technology and more financial products to offer than the Bank. Competition from larger institutions may increase due to an acceleration of bank mergers and consolidations in Missouri and the rest of the nation. In addition, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act removes many of the remaining restrictions in federal banking law against cross-ownership between banks and other financial institutions, such as insurance companies and securities firms. The law will likely increase the number and financial strength of companies that compete directly with the Bank. The profitability of the Bank depends of its continued ability to attract new customers and compete in Missouri. New competitors, as well as

the expanding operations of existing competitors, have had, and are expected to continue to have, an adverse impact on the Bank's market share of deposits and loans in the Bank's service areas. If the Bank is unable to successfully compete, its financial condition and results of operations will be adversely affected.

**We May Experience Difficulties In Managing Growth And In Effectively Integrating Newly Acquired Companies.** As part of the Company's general strategy, it may continue to acquire banks and businesses that it believes provide a strategic fit with its business. To the extent that the Company does grow, there can be no assurances that we will be able to adequately and profitably manage such growth. Acquiring other banks and businesses will involve risks commonly associated with acquisitions, including:

- potential exposure to liabilities of the banks and businesses acquired;
- difficulty and expense of integrating the operations and personnel of the banks and businesses acquired;

difficulty and expense of instituting the necessary systems and procedures, including accounting and financial reporting systems, to manage the combined enterprises on a profitable basis;

- potential disruption to existing business and operations;
- potential diversion of the time and attention of management; and

impairment of relationships with and the possible loss of key employees and customers of the banks and businesses acquired.

The success of the Company's internal growth strategy will depend primarily on the ability of the Bank to generate an increasing level of loans and deposits at acceptable risk levels and on acceptable terms without significant increases in

non-interest expenses relative to revenues generated. There is no assurance that we will be successful in implementing the Company's internal growth strategy.

**We May Be Adversely Affected By Changes In Laws And Regulations Affecting The Financial Services Industry.** Banks and bank holding companies such as Hawthorn are subject to regulation by both federal and state bank regulatory agencies. The regulations, which are designed to protect borrowers and promote certain social policies, include limitations on the operations of banks and bank holding companies, such as minimum capital requirements and restrictions on dividend payments. The regulatory authorities have extensive discretion in connection with their supervision and enforcement activities and their examination policies, including the imposition of restrictions on the operation of a bank, the classification of assets by an institution and requiring an increase in a bank's allowance for loan losses. These regulations are not necessarily designed to maximize the profitability of banking institutions.

In July 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act, which enacted substantial changes to the legal framework of the entire financial services industry. The Dodd-Frank Act mandates the passage of numerous rules and regulations by various regulatory agencies over the next few years. This legislation will change banking regulation and the operating environment of Hawthorn in substantial and unpredictable ways. It could increase or decrease the cost of doing business, limit or expand permissible activities or affect the competitive balance among banks, savings associations, credit unions and other financial institutions. Hawthorn cannot predict the impact that the Dodd-Frank Act, and the various regulations issued thereunder will have on its business.

These, and other future changes in the banking laws and regulations, could have a material adverse effect on the operations and financial condition of Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary.

**The Short-Term And Long-Term Impact Of The Changing Regulatory Capital Requirements And New Capital Rules Is Uncertain.** The federal banking agencies have substantially amended the regulatory capital rules applicable to us and the Bank. The amendments implement the "Basel III" regulatory capital reforms and changes required by the Dodd-Frank Act. The amended rules include new minimum risk-based capital and leverage ratios, which became effective in January 2015, with certain requirements to be phased in beginning in 2016, and refined the definition of what constitutes "capital" for purposes of calculating those ratios.

The application of more stringent capital requirements to us and the Bank could, among other things, result in lower returns on invested capital, require the raising of additional capital, and result in regulatory actions if we were to be unable to comply with such requirements. Implementation of changes to asset risk weightings for risk based capital calculations, items included or deducted in calculating regulatory capital and/or additional capital conservation buffers could result in management modifying its business strategy and could further limit the Company's ability to make distributions, including paying out dividends or buying back shares.



**The Bank Is A Community Bank And Our Ability To Maintain The Bank's Reputation Is Critical To The Success Of Our Business And The Failure To Do So Could Materially Adversely Affect Our Performance.**

The Bank is a community bank, and its reputation is one of the most valuable components of our business. As such, we strive to conduct our business in a manner that enhances our reputation. This is done, in part, by recruiting, hiring and retaining employees who share our core values of being an integral part of the communities we serve, delivering superior service to our customers and caring about our customers and associates. If our reputation is negatively affected, by the actions of our employees or otherwise, our business and, therefore, our operating results could be materially adversely affected.

**The Company's Success Largely Depends On The Efforts Of Its Executive Officers.** The success of Hawthorn and its banking subsidiary has been largely dependent on the efforts of David Turner, Chairman, CEO, and President and the other executive officers. These individuals are expected to continue to perform their services. However, the loss of the services of Mr. Turner, or any of the other key executive officers could have a materially adverse effect on Hawthorn and its subsidiary bank.

**If We Fail To Maintain An Effective System Of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, We May Not Be Able To Accurately Report Our Financial Results Or Prevent Fraud, And, As A Result, Investors And Depositors Could Lose Confidence In Our Financial Reporting, Which Could Adversely Affect Our Business, The Trading Price Of Our Stock, And Our Ability To Attract Additional Deposits.** We are required to include in our

annual reports filed with the SEC a report from our management regarding internal control over financial reporting. As a result, we documented and evaluated our internal control over financial reporting in order to satisfy the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and SEC rules and regulations, which require an annual management report on our internal control over financial reporting, including, among other matters, management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Failure or circumvention of our system of internal control could have an adverse effect on our business, profitability, and financial condition, and could result in regulatory actions and loss of investor confidence. Additionally, if we fail to identify and correct any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the design or operating effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting or fail to prevent fraud, current and potential stockholders and depositors could lose confidence in our financial reporting, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, the trading price of our stock and our ability to attract additional deposits.

**We Are Subject To Security And Operational Risks Relating To Our Use Of Technology That Could Damage Our Reputation And Our Business.** We rely heavily on communications and information systems to conduct our business. Furthermore, we have access to large amounts of confidential financial information and control substantial financial assets, including those belonging to our customers, to whom we offer remote access, and we regularly transfer substantial financial assets by electronic means. Our operations are dependent upon our ability to protect our computer equipment against damage from physical theft, fire, power loss, telecommunications failure or a similar catastrophic event, as well as from security breaches, denial of service attacks, viruses, worms and other disruptive problems caused by hackers. Any failure, interruption or breach in security of our systems could damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny, or expose us to civil litigation and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Although we intend to continue to implement security technology and establish operational procedures to prevent such damage, our security measures may not be successful.

In addition, advances in computer capabilities, new discoveries in the field of cryptography or other developments could result in a compromise or breach of the algorithms we and our third-party service providers use to encrypt and protect customer transaction data. A failure of such security measures could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. We also face the risk of operational disruption, failure, termination or capacity constraints caused by third parties that facilitate our business activities by providing technology such as software applications, as well as financial intermediaries. Such parties could also be the source of an attack on, or breach of, our operational systems, data or infrastructure.

We also face the potential risk of loss due to fraud, including commercial checking account fraud, automated teller machine ("ATM") skimming and trapping, write-offs necessitated by debit card fraud, and other forms of online banking fraud, which are becoming more sophisticated and present new challenges as mobile banking increases, as well as employee fraud. Employee errors could also subject us to financial claims for negligence. We maintain a system of internal controls and insurance coverage to mitigate against operational risks, including data processing system failures and errors and customer or employee fraud. Should our internal controls fail to prevent or detect an occurrence, and if any resulting loss is not insured or exceeds applicable insurance limits, such failure could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**The Operation Of Our Business, Including Our Interaction With Customers, Are Increasingly Done Via Electronic Means, And This Has Increased Our Risks Related To Cybersecurity.** We are exposed to the risk of cyber-attacks in the normal course of business. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. We have observed an increased level of attention in the industry focused on cyber-attacks that include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cyber-attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as by causing denial-of-service attacks on websites. Cyber-attacks may be carried out by third parties or insiders using techniques that range from highly sophisticated efforts to electronically circumvent network security or overwhelm websites to more traditional intelligence gathering and social engineering aimed at obtaining information necessary to gain access. The objectives of cyber-attacks vary widely and can include theft of financial assets, intellectual property, or other sensitive information, including the information belonging to our banking customers. Cyber-attacks may also be directed at disrupting our operations.

We may incur substantial costs and suffer other negative consequences if we fall victim to successful cyber-attacks. Such negative consequences could include remediation costs that may include liability for stolen assets or information and repairing system damage that may have been caused; increased cybersecurity protection costs that may include organizational changes, deploying additional personnel and protection technologies, training employees, and engaging third party experts and consultants; lost revenues resulting from unauthorized use of proprietary information or the failure to retain or attract customers following an attack; litigation; and reputational damage adversely affecting customer or investor confidence.

**We Continually Encounter Technological Change, And We Cannot Predict How Changes In Technology Will Affect Our Business.** The financial services industry is continually undergoing rapid technological change with frequent introductions of new technology driven by products and services, which include developments in:

- telecommunications •internet-based banking
- data processing •telebanking
- automation •debit cards and so-called "smart cards"

The effective use of technology increases efficiency and enables financial institutions to better serve customers and to reduce costs. Our future success depends, in part, upon our ability to address the needs of our customers by using technology to provide products and services that will satisfy customer demands, as well as to create additional efficiencies in our operations. Many of our competitors have substantially greater resources to invest in technological improvements. We may not be able to effectively implement new technology driven products and services or be successful in marketing these products and services to our customers. Failure to successfully keep pace with technological change affecting the financial services industry could have a material adverse impact on our business and, in turn, our financial condition and results of operations.

**We Rely On Others To Provide Key Components Of Our Business Infrastructure.** Third party vendors provide key components of our business infrastructure such as internet connections, network access and core application processing. While we have selected these third party vendors carefully, we do not control their actions. Any problems caused by these third parties, including as a result of their not providing us their services for any reason or their performing their services poorly, could adversely affect our ability to deliver products and services to our customers or otherwise conduct our business efficiently and effectively. Replacing these third party vendors could also entail significant delay and expense.

**The Price Of Our Common Stock Could Fluctuate Significantly, And This Could Make It Difficult For You To Resell Shares Of Our Common Stock At Times Or At Prices You Find Attractive.** The stock market and, in particular, the market for financial institution stocks, has experienced significant volatility during the recent economic downturn. In some cases, the markets have produced downward pressure on stock prices for certain issuers without

regard to those issuers' underlying financial strength. As a result, the trading volume in our common stock could fluctuate more than usual and cause significant price variations to occur. This could make it difficult for you to resell shares of our common stock at times or at prices you find attractive.

The trading price of the shares of our common stock will depend on many factors that could change from time to time and could be beyond our control. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are those identified under the heading "Forward-Looking Statements" in Item 7 of this report and as follows:

- actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in financial estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts or actions taken by rating agencies with respect to our common stock or those of other financial institutions;

- failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community generally or relating to our reputation, our market area, our competitors or the financial services industry in general;

- strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions, restructurings, dispositions or financings;

actions by our current stockholders, including sales of common stock by existing stockholders and/or directors and executive officers;

- fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;
- future sales of our equity, equity-related or debt securities;
- changes in the frequency or amount of dividends or share repurchases;
- proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;
- investigations, proceedings or litigation that involve or affect us;
- trading activities in our common stock, including short-selling;
- domestic and local economic factors unrelated to our performance; and

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for the financial services industry.

A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual stockholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

**The Trading Volume In Our Common Stock Has Been Low, And The Sale Of A Substantial Number Of Shares Of Our Common Stock In The Public Market Could Depress The Price Of Our Common Stock And Make It Difficult For You To Sell Your Shares.** Our common stock is listed to trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, but is thinly traded. As a result, you may not be able to sell your shares of common stock on short notice. Additionally, thinly traded stock can be more volatile than stock trading in an active public market. The sale of a substantial number of shares of our common stock at one time could temporarily depress the market price of our common stock, making it difficult for you to sell your shares and impairing our ability to raise capital.

**Our Common Stock Is Not Insured By Any Governmental Entity.** Our common stock is not a deposit account or other obligation of any bank and is not insured by the FDIC or any other governmental entity.

**Additional Factors.** Additional risks and uncertainties that may affect the future results of operations, financial condition or business of the Company and its banking subsidiary include, but are not limited to: (i) adverse publicity, news coverage by the media, or negative reports by brokerage firms, industry and financial analysts regarding the Bank or the Company; and (ii) changes in accounting policies and practices.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.**

None.

**Item 2. Properties.**

Neither the Company nor Union State Bancshares owns or leases any property. The Company's principal offices are located at 132 East High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The table below provides a list of the Bank's facilities.

Location	Approximate Square Footage	Owned or Leased	Net Book Value at 12/31/2014 (in thousands)
8127 East 171 <sup>st</sup> Street, Belton, MO	13,000	Owned	\$ 1,879
4675 Gretna Road, Branson, MO	11,000	(1) Owned	\$ 1,411
1000 West Buchanan Street, California, MO	2,270	Owned	\$ 380
102 North Second Street, Clinton, MO	11,524	Owned	\$ 1,478
1400 East Ohio Street, Clinton, MO	13,551	Owned	\$ 3,023
1712 East Ohio Street, Clinton, MO (inside a Wal-Mart store)	600	Leased	(2) N/A
1101 North Highway 13, Collins, MO	1,500	Owned	\$ 20
1110 Club Village Drive, Columbia, MO	5,000	Owned	\$ 1,527
18 S. Ninth St., Suites 208-209, Columbia, MO	1,500	Leased	(3) N/A
115 South 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Drexel, MO	4,000	Owned	\$ 191
100 Plaza Drive, Harrisonville, MO	4,000	Owned	\$ 512
17430 East 39 <sup>th</sup> Street, Independence, MO	4,070	Owned	\$ 655
220 West White Oak, Independence, MO	1,800	Owned	\$ 70
132 East High Street, Jefferson City, MO	34,800	Owned	\$ 3,175
3701 West Truman Blvd, Jefferson City, MO	21,000	Owned	\$ 355
211 West Dunklin Street, Jefferson City, MO	2,500	Owned	\$ 1,623
800 Eastland Drive, Jefferson City, MO	4,100	Owned	\$ 668
3600 Amazonas Drive, Jefferson City, MO	26,000	Owned	\$ 2,588
300 S.W. Longview Blvd, Lee's Summit, MO	11,700	Owned	\$ 2,062
5 Victory lane, Suite 203, Liberty, MO	1075	Leased	(4) N/A
335 Chestnut, Osceola, MO	1,580	Owned	\$ 52
500 North Mott Drive, # 103C, Raymore, MO (in the Foxwood Springs Seniors Center)	462	Leased	(5) N/A
595 VFW Memorial Drive, St. Robert, MO	2,236	Owned	\$ 67
321 West Battlefield, Springfield, MO	12,500	(6) Owned	\$ 591
200 West Main Street, Warsaw, MO	8,900	Owned	\$ 140
1891 Commercial Drive, Warsaw, MO	11,000	Owned	\$ 1,639
125 South Main, Windsor, MO	3,600	Owned	\$ 241

- (1) Of the 11,000 square feet of space, 2,384 square feet of space is leased to a non-affiliate.
- (2) The term of this lease began in January 1999 and ends in January 2019.
- (3) The term of this lease began on October 2014 and ends in September 2015.
- (4) The term of this lease began in May 2014 and ends in April 2016.
- (5) The term of this lease can be terminated at any time upon thirty days' notice.
- (6) Of the 12,500 square feet of space, 5,873 square feet of space is leased to a non-affiliate.

Management believes that the condition of each of the Bank's facilities presently is adequate for its business and that such facilities are adequately covered by insurance.



**Item 3. Legal Proceedings.**

The information required by this Item is set forth in Note 18, *Commitments and Contingencies*, in the Company's consolidated financial statements.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures:**

Not applicable

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT**

Executive officers of the Company are appointed by the board of directors and serve at the discretion of the board. The following table sets forth certain information with respect to all executive officers of the Company.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>
David T. Turner	58	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, President and Director
W. Bruce Phelps	64	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Kathleen L. Bruegenhemke	49	Senior Vice President and Secretary

The business experience of the executive officers of the Company for the last five years is as follows:

*David T. Turner* has served as a director of the Company and of Hawthorn Bank (or of its constituent predecessors) since January 1997. He has served as president of the Company since March 2002 and as chairman and chief executive officer of the Company since January 2011. He also currently serves as chairman, chief executive officer and president of Hawthorn Bank. Mr. Turner has served as vice chairman of the Company from June 1998 through March 2002 and as senior vice president of the Company from 1993 until June 1998. He served as president of a predecessor to Hawthorn Bank from January 1997 through March 2002 when he assumed the position of chairman, chief executive officer and president. He served as senior vice president of that same predecessor from June 1992 through December 1996 and as its vice president from 1985 until June 1992.

*W. Bruce Phelps* has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company since January 2012 and Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Hawthorn Bank since January 2012. Prior to joining the Company, he served as Controller of Pulaski Bank from 2009 until January 2012. Previously Mr. Phelps served as Principal of WBP Consulting in providing financial consulting and support services for clients in the St. Louis area, and as Chief Financial Officer for Champion Bank, St. Louis, Missouri.

*Kathleen L. Bruegenhemke* has served as Senior Vice President and Secretary of the Company since November 1997. Since October 2014, she also has served as Columbia Market President. From January 1992 until November 1997, she

served as Internal Auditor of Hawthorn Bank (or of one of its constituent predecessors). Prior to joining the Bank, Ms. Bruegenhemke served as a Commissioned Bank Examiner for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

There is no arrangement or understanding between any executive officer and any other person pursuant to which such executive officer was selected as an officer.

## **PART II**

### **Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(2) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item, other than that referred to below, is incorporated herein by reference to the information under the caption "Market Price of and Dividends on Equity Securities and Related Matters" in the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders.

We refer you to Item 12 of this report under the caption "Securities Authorized For Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans" for certain equity plan information.

**The Company's Purchases of Equity Securities**

The following table summarizes the purchases made by or on behalf of the Company or certain affiliated purchasers of shares of the Company's common stock during the fourth quarter of the year ended December 31, 2014:

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	(d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs *
October 1-31, 2014	—	—	—	\$ 333,038
November 1-30, 2014	—	—	—	\$ 333,038
December 1-31, 2014	—	—	—	\$ 333,038
Total	—	—	—	\$ 333,038

On August 22, 2001, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized the purchase, through open market transactions, of up to \$2,000,000 market value of the Company's common stock. Management was given \*discretion to determine the number and pricing of the shares to be purchased, as well as, the timing of any such purchases. On November 26, 2002, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized an additional \$2,000,000 for the purchase of the Company's stock through open market transactions.

**Recent Issuance of Securities**

None.

**Item 6. Selected Financial Data.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(2) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to the information under the caption "Selected Consolidated Financial Data" in the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders.

**Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(2) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to the information under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders.

**Forward-Looking Statements**

This report, including information included or incorporated by reference in this report, contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, strategy, future performance and business of the Company and its subsidiaries, including, without limitation:

· statements that are not historical in nature, and

· statements preceded by, followed by or that include the words "believes," "expects," "may," "will," "should," "could," "anticipates," "estimates," "intends" or similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance or results. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements due to, among others, the following factors:

· competitive pressures among financial services companies may increase significantly,

changes in the interest rate environment may reduce interest margins,

general economic conditions, either nationally or in Missouri, may be less favorable than expected and may adversely affect the quality of the Company's loans and other assets,

increases in non-performing assets in the Company's loan portfolios and adverse economic conditions may necessitate increases to the provisions for loan losses,

costs or difficulties related to the integration of the business of Hawthorn and its acquisition targets may be greater than expected,

legislative or regulatory changes may adversely affect the business in which Hawthorn and its subsidiaries are engaged, and

changes may occur in the securities markets.

We have described additional factors that could cause actual results to be materially different from those described in the forward-looking statements, which factors are identified in Item 1A of this report under the heading "Risk Factors." Other factors that we have not identified in this report could also have this effect. You are cautioned not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statement, which speak only as of the date such statement is made. Except as otherwise required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

#### **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.**

The Company's exposure to market risk is reviewed on a regular basis by our Bank's asset/liability committee and board of directors. Interest rate risk is the potential of economic losses due to future interest rate changes. These economic losses can be reflected as a loss of future net interest income and/or a loss of current fair market values. The objective is to measure the effect on net interest income and to adjust the balance sheet to minimize the inherent risk while at the same time maximizing income. Management realizes certain risks are inherent and that the goal is to identify and minimize those risks. Tools used by the Bank's management include the standard GAP report subject to different rate shock scenarios. At December 31, 2014, the rate shock scenario models indicated that annual net interest income could change by as much as -18.3% to +25.5% should interest rates rise or fall within 400 basis points from their current level over a one year period. However there are no assurances that the change will not be more or less than this estimate.

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item, other than that provided above, is incorporated herein by reference to:

(i) the information under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Interest Sensitivity and Liquidity" in the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders; and

(ii) the information under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" in the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders.

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(2) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to the report of the independent auditors and the information under the caption "Consolidated Financial Statements" in the Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders.

**Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.**

None.

**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures.**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.**

An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of December 31, 2014. Based on that evaluation, the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

**Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting.**

**Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.**

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as of December 31, 2014, based on the framework set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (1992)*. Based upon its assessment, management has concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, the Company's internal control over financial reporting, is effective based on the criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (1992)*.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. As discussed in the Company's September 30, 2014 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, during the quarter, the Company's management discovered an instance of employee fraud resulting in the loss of an aggregate \$421,000 of cash over an extended period of time. As a result of the discovery, the Company recorded a \$136,000 loss in its consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2014, representing the \$421,000 gross loss, net of expected insurance proceeds of \$285,000. The Company determined that any adjustments relating to prior-period financial statements were immaterial.



Although this employee fraud was ultimately discovered as a result of high-level controls in place at the Company, management determined that the operation of the Company's controls related to cash reconciliation and accounting were not effective at that time to ensure consistent application of established policies and procedures, including those designed to detect or prevent certain unauthorized, fraudulent transactions, and that such deficiency constituted a material weakness in the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, the Company promptly took steps to enhance its cash controls and procedures to remediate such material weakness, including, among other things, the adoption of clarifying revisions to existing policies to aid in their effective implementation, adjustments to the level of precision at which the controls operate, enhancements to the segregation of certain duties, and additional communication from senior management regarding effective application of existing controls and procedures. In addition to these remedial measures, the Company performed a cash count at all of its branches utilizing the enhanced controls and procedures to ensure that cash totals reconciled to its financial statements.

Management has made a comprehensive review, evaluation, and assessment of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. In making its assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, management used the framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (1992)*. Based on that assessment, management concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, the remedial measures discussed above have strengthened the Company's internal control over financial reporting to the extent necessary to remedy the material weakness relating to the detection and prevention of certain unauthorized, fraudulent transactions and that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective.

Management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, as of December 31, 2014, has been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included herein.

**Changes in Internal Controls.**

Other than the remediation of the cash controls and procedures noted above, there has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc.:

We have audited Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc.'s (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying *Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on the audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income,

stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and the report dated March 31, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s / KPMG LLP

St. Louis, Missouri

March 31, 2015

**Item 9B. Other Information.**

None.

**PART III**

**Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item, other than that referred to below, is incorporated herein by reference to:

the information under the caption "Item 1: Election of Directors—What is the structure of our board and how often are (i) directors elected?" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A;

(ii) the information under the caption "Item 1: Election of Directors—Who are this year's nominees?" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A;

the information under the caption "Item 1: Election of Directors—What is the business experience of the nominees (iii) and of our continuing board members?" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A;

- (iv) the information under the caption "Executive Officers of the Registrant" in Part I of this report;
- (v) the information under the caption "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A;
- (vi) the information under the caption "Corporate Governance and Board Matters—Consideration of Director Nominees" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A; and
- (vii) the information under the caption "Corporate Governance and Board Matters—Committees of the Board—Audit Committee" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

### **Code of Ethics**

The Company has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for directors, officers and employees including, the its principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller and persons performing similar functions. This Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is posted on the Company's internet website ([www.hawthornbancshares.com](http://www.hawthornbancshares.com)) under the "Governance Documents" menu tab and is available for your examination. A copy of this Code will be furnished without charge upon written request to Corporate Secretary, Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc., 132 East High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101. Any substantive amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of this Code that applies to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial

officer, principal accounting officer, controller, or persons performing similar functions will be disclosed in a report on Form 8-K.

**Item 11. Executive Compensation.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to:

(i) the information under the caption "Executive Compensation and Related Matters" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A;

(ii) the information under the caption "Corporate Governance and Board Matters—Director Compensation" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A; and

(iii) the information under the caption "Corporate Governance and Board Matters—Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

**Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item, other than that presented below, is incorporated herein by reference to the information under the caption "Ownership of Common Stock" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

**Securities Authorized For Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans**

The Company has two equity compensation plans for its employees pursuant to which options, rights or warrants may be granted. The following is a summary of the shares reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding options, rights or warrants granted under equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2014:

<b>Plan category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)</b>	<b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)</b>	
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	96,481	* \$ 22.42	962,366	**
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	-0-	-0-	-0-	
Total	96,481	* \$ 22.42	962,366	**

\* Consists of shares reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding stock option grants under the Company's incentive stock option plan.

\*\* Consists of 456,238 shares available for future issuance under the Company's incentive stock option plan and 506,128 shares available for future issuance under the Company's 2007 omnibus incentive plan.

**Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to:

(i) the information under the caption "Related Party Transactions" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A;

(ii) the information under the caption "Item 1: Election of Directors—What is the structure of our board and how often are directors elected?" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A; and

(iii) the information under the caption "Corporate Governance and Board Matters—Committees of the Board" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

**Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services.**

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K, the information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to the information under the caption "Independent Auditor Fees and Services" in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A.

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.**

(a) Exhibits, Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules:

1.

Financial Statements:



The following consolidated financial statements of the Company and reports of the Company's independent auditors, included in the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014 under the caption "Consolidated Financial Statements", are incorporated herein by reference:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

2. Financial Statement Schedules:

Financial statement schedules have been omitted because they either are not required or are not applicable or because equivalent information has been included in the financial statements, the notes thereto or elsewhere herein.

3.

Exhibits:

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K on August 9, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K on November 1, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.1	Specimen certificate representing shares of the Company's \$1.00 par value Common Stock (filed as Exhibit 4 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.1	Exchange National Bancshares, Inc. Incentive Stock Option Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 and incorporated herein by reference).*
10.2	Form of Change of Control Agreement and schedule of parties thereto (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period March 31, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference).*
13	The Company's 2014 Annual Report to Shareholders (only those portions of this Annual Report to Shareholders which are specifically incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K shall be deemed to be filed with the Commission).
14	Code of Business Conduct and Ethics of the Company (filed as Exhibit 14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference).
21	List of Subsidiaries (filed as Exhibit 21 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference).
23	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
24	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to this Annual Report on Form 10-K).
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	

Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

101 Interactive data files pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Income, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity, (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and (v) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text and in detail (XBRL)

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\* Management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements required to be identified by Item 15(a).

(b) Exhibits.

See exhibits identified above under Item 15(a)3.

(c) Financial Statement Schedules.

See financial statement schedules identified above under Item 15(a)2, if any.

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.

HAWTHORN BANCSHARES, INC.

Dated: March 31, 2015 By/s/David T. Turner  
David T. Turner, Chairman of the Board,  
President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints David T. Turner and W. Bruce Phelps, or either of them, his attorneys-in-fact, for such person in any and all capacities, to sign any amendments to this report and to file the same, with exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming all that either of said attorneys-in-fact, or substitute or substitutes, may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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 and on the dates indicated.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature and Title</b>
March 31, 2015	/s/ David T. Turner David T. Turner, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
March 31, 2015	/s/ W. Bruce Phelps W. Bruce Phelps, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)
March 31, 2015	/s/ Frank E. Burkhead Frank E. Burkhead, Director
March 31, 2015	/s/ Philip D. Freeman Philip D. Freeman, Director

March 31,  
2015

/s/ Kevin L. Riley

Kevin L. Riley, Director

March 31,  
2015

/s/ James E. Smith

James E. Smith, Director

March 31,  
2015

/s/ Gus S. Wetzel, II

Gus S. Wetzel, II, Director

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
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32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.	
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.	
101	Interactive data files pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Income, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity, (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and (v) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text and in detail (XBRL).*	

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As provided in Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, this information is furnished and not filed for purposes of Sections 11 \*and 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.