

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 4  
August 13, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
TIETJEN JOHN W

(Last) (First) (Middle)

650 FIFTH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10019

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
STERLING BANCORP [STL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
08/11/2008

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP and CFO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D) Code V Amount Price                                    |   |  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 08/11/2008                           |  | F                              | 25,369 D \$ 16.45   | 29,681  | D  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 08/11/2008                           |  | M                              | 48,024 A \$ 8.69  | 77,705  | D  |  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 9,850   | I  | By 401(k)                                  |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

number.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |              |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date                                   | Title        |
| Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)     | \$ 8.69  | 08/11/2008                           |  | M                              | 48,024  | 02/12/2003   | 02/12/2009  | Common Stock |
| Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)     | \$ 6.94  |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/11/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>                                | 02/11/2010  | Common Stock |
| Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)     | \$ 14.6  |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/06/2010 <sup>(2)</sup>                                | 02/06/2012  | Common Stock |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 6.94  |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/11/2001 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 02/11/2010  | Common Stock |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 14.6  |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/06/2003 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 02/06/2012  | Common Stock |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |             |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer     | Other |
| TIETJEN JOHN W<br>650 FIFTH AVENUE<br>4TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10019 |               |           | EVP and CFO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Tietjen, John  
W 08/12/2008

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Options become exercisable, commencing on the seventh anniversary of the grant, in three installments for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).
- (2) Options become exercisable, commencing on the eighth anniversary of the grant, in two installments for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).
- (3) Non-qualified options are exercisable commencing on the first anniversary of the grant for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).

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