

STERLING BANCORP

Form 4

January 24, 2007

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

## OMB APPROVAL

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

(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)  
01/22/2007

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities 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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	01/22/2007		M	4,999 A \$ 6.48	47,569	D	
Common Stock	01/22/2007		F	1,778 D \$ 18.21	45,791	D	
Common Stock					7,695	I	By 401(k)

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
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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 (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 6.48	01/22/2007		M	4,999	01/31/1998	01/31/2007	Common Stock
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 10.34					02/10/1999 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/10/2008	Common Stock
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 8.69					02/12/2003 <sup>(2)</sup>	02/12/2009	Common Stock
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 6.94					02/11/2007 <sup>(3)</sup>	02/11/2010	Common Stock
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 14.6					02/06/2010 <sup>(4)</sup>	02/06/2012	Common Stock
Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 6.94					02/11/2001 <sup>(5)</sup>	02/11/2010	Common Stock
Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 14.6					02/06/2003 <sup>(5)</sup>	02/06/2012	Common Stock

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
TIETJEN JOHN W 650 FIFTH AVENUE 4TH FLOOR			EVP and CFO	

NEW YORK, NY 10019

## Signatures

/s/ Tietjen, John

01/23/2007

W

\_\_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 became exercisable in three installments on the first anniversary of the grant, for a term of 10 years from date of grant (first exercisable date listed).
- (2) Options become exercisable, commencing on fourth anniversary of the grant, in installments over a five-year period for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).
- (3) Options become exercisable in three installments commencing on the seventh anniversary of the grant date and for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).
- (4) Options become exercisable in two installments commencing on the eighth anniversary of the grant date and for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).
- (5) 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.

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