DOWNEY FINANCIAL CORP Form SC 13G August 09, 2007

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. ____)*

DOWNEY FINANCIAL CORP.

(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK, \$0.01 PAR VALUE

(Title of Class of Securities)

261018105

(CUSIP Number)

JULY 30, 2007

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appro	priate box to	designate the r	ule pursuant to	which this	Schedule is filed:

" Rule 13d-1(b)

x Rule 13d-1(c)

" Rule 13d-1(d)

^{*} The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Act) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, *see* the *Notes*).

CUSIP No. 261018105 13G Page 2 of 14 Pages 1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Highfields Capital Management LP 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) " (b) " 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware 5. SOLE VOTING POWER NUMBER OF 1,829,385 **SHARES** 6. SHARED VOTING POWER BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER **EACH** REPORTING 1,829,385 PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER WITH 0 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,829,385 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.6%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

PN

CUSIP No. 261018105 13G Page 3 of 14 Pages 1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Highfields GP LLC 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) " (b) " 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware 5. SOLE VOTING POWER NUMBER OF 1,829,385 **SHARES** 6. SHARED VOTING POWER BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER **EACH** REPORTING 1,829,385 PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER WITH 0 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,829,385 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

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CUSIP No. 261018105 13G Page 4 of 14 Pages 1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Highfields Associates LLC 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) " (b) " 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware 5. SOLE VOTING POWER NUMBER OF 1,829,385 **SHARES** 6. SHARED VOTING POWER BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER **EACH** REPORTING 1,829,385 PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER WITH 0 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,829,385 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

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CUSIP No. 261018105 13G Page 5 of 14 Pages 1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Jonathon S. Jacobson 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) " (b) " 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION **United States** 5. SOLE VOTING POWER NUMBER OF 1,829,385 **SHARES** 6. SHARED VOTING POWER BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER **EACH** REPORTING 1,829,385 PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER WITH 0 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,829,385 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

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IN

CUSIP No. 261018105 13G Page 6 of 14 Pages 1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Richard L. Grubman 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) " (b) " 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION **United States** 5. SOLE VOTING POWER NUMBER OF 1,829,385 **SHARES** 6. SHARED VOTING POWER BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER **EACH** REPORTING 1,829,385 PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER WITH 0 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,829,385 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IN

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Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

Downey Financial Corp. (the Issuer)

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer s Principal Executive Offices:

3501 Jamboree Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

This statement is being filed by the following persons with respect to the shares of common stock (Common Stock) of the Issuer directly owned by Highfields Capital I LP (Highfields II), Highfields III LP (Highfields III) and Highfields Capital III L.P. (Highfields III and, collectively, the Funds):

- (i) Highfields Capital Management LP, a Delaware limited partnership (Highfields Capital Management) and investment manager to each of the Funds;
- (ii) Highfields GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (Highfields GP) and the General Partner of Highfields Capital Management;
- (iii) Highfields Associates LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (Highfields Associates) and the General Partner of the Funds;
- (iv) Jonathon S. Jacobson, a Managing Member of Highfields GP and a Senior Managing Member of Highfields Associates; and
- (v) Richard L. Grubman, a Managing Member of Highfields GP and a Senior Managing Member of Highfields Associates. Highfields Capital Management, Highfields GP, Highfields Associates, Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Grubman are sometimes individually referred to herein as a Reporting Person and collectively as the Reporting Persons.

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

Address for Highfields Capital Management, Highfields GP, Highfields Associates,

Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Grubman:

c/o Highfields Capital Management

John Hancock Tower

200 Clarendon Street, 59th Floor

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

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Item 2(c). Citiz Highfields Capita	zenship: l Management Delaware		
Highfields GP I	Delaware		
Highfields Associ	ates Delaware		
Jonathon S. Jacob	son United States		
Richard L. Grubn	nan United States		
Item 2(d). Title Common Stock, \$	of Class of Securities: 60.01 par value		
Item 2(e). CUS 261018105	SIP Number:		
Item 3. Not a	applicable.		
	nership. Ipital Management, Highfields C	GP, Highfields Associates, Mr. Jacobson and Mr. G	rubman:
(a)	Amount beneficially owned: 1	,829,385 shares of Common Stock	
(b)	Percent of class: 6.6%		
(c)	Number of shares as to which	such person has:	
	(i) Sole power to vote or to	direct the vote: 1,829,385	
	(ii) Shared power to vote or	to direct the vote: 0	
	(iii) Sole power to dispose or	to direct the disposition of: 1,829,385	

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

The shares beneficially owned by Highfields Capital Management, Highfields GP, Highfields Associates, Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Grubman are beneficially owned by the Funds. Each of Highfields I, Highfields II and Highfields III individually owns less than 5% of the shares. Highfields Capital Management serves as the investment manager to each of the Funds. Each of Highfields Capital Management, Highfields GP, Highfields Associates, Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Grubman has the power to direct the dividends from or the proceeds of the sale of the shares owned by the Funds.

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Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

August 9, 2007 Date

HIGHFIELDS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LP

By: Highfields GP LLC, its General Partner

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

HIGHFIELDS GP LLC

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

HIGHFIELDS ASSOCIATES LLC

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

JONATHON S. JACOBSON

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

RICHARD L. GRUBMAN

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

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Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 1. Joint Filing Agreement as required by Rule 13d-1(k)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

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Exhibit 1

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(k)(1)

The undersigned acknowledge and agree that the foregoing statement on Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of each of the undersigned and that all subsequent amendments to this statement on Schedule 13G shall be filed on behalf of each of the undersigned without the necessity of filing additional joint filing statements. The undersigned acknowledge that each shall be responsible for the timely filing of such amendments, and for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning him, her or it contained herein, but shall not be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning the other entities or persons, except to the extent that he, she or it knows or has reason to believe that such information is inaccurate.

August 9, 2007 Date

HIGHFIELDS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LP

By: Highfields GP LLC, its General Partner

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

HIGHFIELDS GP LLC

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

HIGHFIELDS ASSOCIATES LLC

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

JONATHON S. JACOBSON

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature CUSIP No. 261018105 13G Page 14 of 14 Pages

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title

RICHARD L. GRUBMAN

/s/ Joseph F. Mazzella Signature

Joseph F. Mazzella, Authorized Signatory Name/Title