

TIETJEN JOHN W  
Form 5  
January 30, 2009

**FORM 5**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

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

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
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. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2008

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 Reporting

(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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock				(A) Amount	77,705	D	
Common Stock				(A) Amount	11,141	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 2270 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 6.94	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	Date Exercisable: 02/11/2007 <sup>(1)</sup> Expiration Date: 02/11/2010	Common Stock 32
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 14.6	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	Date Exercisable: 02/06/2010 <sup>(2)</sup> Expiration Date: 02/06/2012	Common Stock 13
Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 6.94	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	Date Exercisable: 02/11/2001 <sup>(3)</sup> Expiration Date: 02/11/2010	Common Stock 6
Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 14.6	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	Date Exercisable: 02/06/2003 <sup>(3)</sup> Expiration Date: 02/06/2012	Common Stock 24

## Reporting Owners

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

## Signatures

/s/ Tietjen, John  
W 01/28/2009

\*\*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 provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.