

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form SC 13G/A
February 10, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment Number 5)

First Financial Bancorp.
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

320209109
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2003
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- 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 Notes).

SCHEDULE 13G

CUSIP No. 320209109

1. Names of Reporting Persons I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons
(Entities Only)
First Financial Bancorp.
I.R.S. ID No. 31-1042001

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group
(a)
(b)

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization
Ohio

| | |
|--|--|
| | 5. Sole Voting Power 8,856,402 |
| Number of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person with: | ----- |
| | 6. Shared Voting Power 0 |
| | ----- |
| | 7. Sole Dispositive Power 3,542,073 |
| | ----- |
| | 8. Shared Dispositive Power 5,010,800 |
| | ----- |

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person
8,955,959

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 19.35%

12. Type of Reporting Person
HC

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SCHEDULE 13G

CUSIP No. 320209109

1. Names of Reporting Persons I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons
(Entities Only)
First Financial Bank, N.A.
I.R.S. ID No. 31-0308605

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group
(a)
(b)

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization
U.S.A.

5. Sole Voting Power
8,543,906

Number of Shares
Beneficially Owned
by Each
Reporting
Person with:

6. Shared Voting Power
0

7. Sole Dispositive Power
3,298,123

8. Shared Dispositive Power
4,923,495

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person
8,624,704

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 18.64%

12. Type of Reporting Person
BK

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- Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:
First Financial Bancorp.
- Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:
300 High Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
- Item 2(a) Name of Person(s) Filing:
First Financial Bancorp.
First Financial Bank, N.A.
- Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office:
300 High Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
- Item 2(c) Citizenship:
Ohio
- Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:
Common Stock
- Item 2(e) CUSIP Number:
320209109
- Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to Sections 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether filing person(s) is (are):
- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act.
 - (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act.
 - (c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act.
 - (d) Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.
 - (e) Investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
 - (f) Employee benefit plan, pension fund which is subject to provisions of Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or endowment fund; see Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F).
 - (g) Parent Holding Company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G).
 - (h) Savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act
 - (i) a church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940
 - (j) Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

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- Item 4 Ownership

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- (a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 8,955,959
- (b) Percent of Class: 19.35%
- (c) Number of Shares as to which First Financial Bancorp. has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: 8,856,402
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 3,542,073
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 5,010,800

Number of Shares as to which First Financial Bank, N.A. has:

- (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: 8,543,906
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 3,298,123
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 4,923,495
- Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class
N/A

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person
The securities covered by this Schedule are held in trust, agency or custodial capacities by First Financial Bank, N.A. and three additional wholly owned bank subsidiaries of First Financial Bancorp. The three additional bank subsidiaries each hold less than one percent of the shares of First Financial Bancorp. To their knowledge, no person has the right to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, more than five percent of such securities.

Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company
First Financial Bancorp. is a parent holding company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G); First Financial Bank, N.A., its wholly owned subsidiary, is a Bank, as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act. See Exhibit 1.

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Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group
N/A

Item 9 Dissolution of Group
N/A

Item 10 Certification

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

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, it is hereby certified that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 10, 2004

First Financial Bancorp.

By: /s/ C. Douglas Lefferson

C. Douglas Lefferson
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

First Financial Bank, N.A.

By: /s/ Mark W. Immelt

Mark W. Immelt
President and Chief Executive Officer

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EXHIBIT 1

| Identification of Subsidiary | Item 3 Classification |
|------------------------------|---|
| First Financial Bancorp. | Parent Holding Company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G) |
| First Financial Bank, N.A. | Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act |

