

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 3  
August 24, 2005

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â fontaine elizabeth e		(Month/Day/Year)	FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	08/23/2005	
300 HIGH STREET			4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)			(Check all applicable)	
HAMILTON,Â OHÂ 45011			<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
			(give title below) (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
			Principal Accounting Officer	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	3,917	D	Â
Common Stock	8,047	I	401-K
Common Stock	254	I	Joint w/Spouse
Common Stock	1,825	I	Restricted

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying	4. Conversion	5. Ownership	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial
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(Instr. 4)	(Month/Day/Year)		Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	01/24/1997	01/24/2006	Common Stock	923	\$ 11.3019	D	Â
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	01/27/1999	01/27/2008	Common Stock	2,541	\$ 19.087	D	Â
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	01/25/2000	01/25/2009	Common Stock	578	\$ 22.565	D	Â
2000 (ISO) Stock Option	01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	1,050	\$ 17.56	D	Â
2001 (ISO) Stock Option	01/22/2001	01/22/2011	Common Stock	5,250	\$ 16.0124	D	Â
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	01/17/2002	01/17/2012	Common Stock	2,000	\$ 17.2	D	Â
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000	\$ 16.58	D	Â
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	1,000	\$ 17.09	D	Â
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	04/18/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	04/18/2015	Common Stock	3,600	\$ 17.51	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
fontaine elizabeth e 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45011	Â	Â	Â Principal Accounting Officer	Â

## Signatures

terri j ziepfel                      08/24/2005

\_\_Signature of                      Date  
Reporting Person

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) 25% per year for 4 years

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.