

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
December 09, 2003

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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### FORM 8 - K

#### CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) **December 9, 2003**

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## STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Washington**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**0-20800**  
(Commission File Number)

**91-1572822**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201**  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

**(509) 458-3711**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)



**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 5. Other Events.**

On December 9, 2003, Sterling Financial Corporation announced that its acquisition of Klamath First Bancorp, Inc. and the merger of Klamath First Federal Savings and Loan Association with and into Sterling Savings Bank had been approved by the Office of Thrift Supervision subject to satisfactory compliance with certain conditions, including receipt of shareholder approval. On December 11, 2003, Sterling Financial Corporation and Klamath First Bancorp, Inc. will each hold a special meeting of shareholders to vote on the merger proposal.

**Item 7. Exhibits.**

(c) The following exhibits are being furnished herewith:

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>
99.1	Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated December 9, 2003.

**S I G N A T U R E**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

December 9, 2003  
Date

By: /s/ William R. Basom  
**William R. Basom**  
Vice President, Treasurer, and  
Principal Accounting Officer