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STERLING BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
July 23, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

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) JULY 23, 2003  
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COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 1-5273-1  
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Sterling Bancorp  
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(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

New York 13-2565216  
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(State of other jurisdiction of incorporation) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10019-6108  
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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(212) 757-3300  
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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A  
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(FORMER NAME, FORMER ADDRESS AND FORMER FISCAL YEAR, IF CHANGED SINCE  
LAST REPORT)

ITEM 5  
OTHER EVENTS

On July 23, 2003, the Company issued a press release announcing the signing of a lease for its new Queens Regional Banking Center, including a branch office, in Long Island City. The press release is included herein as Exhibit 99.1.

ITEM 7  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

(a) Financial Statements of the Business Acquired.  
Not Applicable

(b) Pro Forma Financial Information  
Not Applicable

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(c) Exhibits  
99.1 Press Release dated July 23, 2003

SIGNATURE

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 hereunto duly authorized.

DATE: July 23, 2003

BY: /s/ JOHN W. TIETJEN

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JOHN W. TIETJEN  
Executive Vice President, Treasurer  
and Chief Financial Officer