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STERLING BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
February 20, 2004

UNITED STATES  
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) February 19, 2004

Commission File Number: 1-5273-1

Sterling Bancorp

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

New York

13-2565216

(State of other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

10019-6108

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(212) 757- 3300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if  
changed since last report)

ITEM 5

OTHER EVENTS

On February 19, 2004 the Company issued a press release announcing the declaration of a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.19 per common share payable on March 31, 2004 to shareholders of record on March 15, 2004. The press release is included herein as Exhibit 99.1.

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ITEM 7

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS  
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- (a) Financial Statements of the Business Acquired  
Not Applicable
  
- (b) Pro Forma Financial Information  
Not Applicable
  
- (c) Exhibits  
99.1 Press Release dated February 19, 2004

SIGNATURE  
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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: February 20, 2004

BY: /s/ JOHN W. TIETJEN  
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JOHN W. TIETJEN  
Executive Vice President, Treasurer  
and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit  
Number  
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99.1

Press Release dated February 19, 2004