

APPLEBAUM HOWARD M  
Form 5  
February 09, 2005

**FORM 5**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
APPLEBAUM HOWARD M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

650 FIFTH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10019

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
STERLING BANCORP [STL]

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Senior Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	6,041	I	By ESOP
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	18,636	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	2,278	I	By 401(k)

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

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Incentive Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 9.12	Â	Â	3	Â Â	02/12/2000 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/12/2009	Common Stock 11,432
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 7.28	Â	Â	3	Â Â	02/11/2001 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/11/2010	Common Stock 16,334
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 15.32	Â	Â	3	Â Â	02/06/2003 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/06/2012	Common Stock 18,000
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 10.85	Â	Â	3	Â Â	02/10/1999 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/10/2008	Common Stock 11,432

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
APPLEBAUM HOWARD M 650 FIFTH AVENUE 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10019	Â	Â	Â Senior Vice President	Â

## Signatures

/s/ Applebaum,  
Howard M

02/09/2005

\_\_Signature of Reporting  
Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(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).
- (2) Options became exercisable in three installments on the first anniversary of the grant, for a term of 10 years from date of grant (first exercisable date listed).

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