

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 4  
August 13, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

Check this box  
if no longer  
subject to  
Section 16.  
Form 4 or  
Form 5  
obligations  
may continue.  
*See Instruction*  
1(b).

**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

## OMB APPROVAL

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Number: 3235-0287  
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**ADAMKO JOSEPH 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. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
**12/31/2007**

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)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(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<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired<br>(A) or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Common<br>Stock                       | 08/13/2008                              |   | S                                    | 100 D   | \$<br>16.53  | 15,611   | D                                       |
| Common<br>Stock                       | 08/13/2008                              |   | S                                    | 2,400 D   | \$<br>16.48  | 13,211   | D                                       |
| Common<br>Stock                       |   |   |                                      |   |  | 2,832  | I By Spouse                             |

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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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) |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 21.93   |                                      |  |                                |   | 06/30/2005 <sup>(1)</sup>                                | 06/30/2009      | Common Stock  | 4,723                      |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 21.41   |                                      |  |                                |   | 07/30/2005 <sup>(1)</sup>                                | 07/30/2009      | Common Stock  | 4,573                      |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 20.34   |                                      |  |                                |   | 12/19/2005 <sup>(2)</sup>                                | 06/30/2010      | Common Stock  | 4,723                      |
| Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | \$ 19.5  |                                      |  |                                |   | 06/30/2007 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 06/30/2011      | Common Stock  | 4,723                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| ADAMKO JOSEPH M<br>650 FIFTH AVENUE<br>4TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10019 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Adamko,  
Joseph M  
08/13/2008  
Date  
\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

## 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).

(1) Transfer of shares acquired by exercise of non-qualified stock options is restricted to even installments over a four year period commencing on the first anniversary of the grant.

On December 15, 2005 the Board of Directors voted to accelerate the vesting and exercisability of any outstanding unvested and unexercisable non-qualified stock options held by non-employee directors, effective as of December 19, 2005; provided, however, that transfer of shares acquired by such exercise is restricted until the date that the option would have been exercisable prior to such change.

(3) Non-employee directors were granted options for 4,753 shares of common stock pursuant to the final grant under an automatic grant of options adopted in 2002.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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