

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
December 11, 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 11, 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 11, 2003, shareholders of Sterling Financial Corporation ( Sterling ) and Klamath First Bancorp, Inc. ( Klamath ) approved the Agreement and Plan of Merger dated July 14, 2003 pursuant to which Klamath will merge with and into Sterling.

**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 11, 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 thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

December 11, 2003  
Date

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