STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ Form 8-K April 14, 2003

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 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) April 14, 2003

### 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

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(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

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(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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#### INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 5.	Other Ev	vents.			
On April called for	14, 2003,	Sterling Fon its 9.50	Financial Corporation issued a press rele 19% Cumulative Capital Securities due J	ase announcing its wholly-owned subsidiary Sterling Capital Trust I has une 30, 2027. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.	
Item 7.	tem 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.				
	(c)	Exhibits			
		99.1	Press Release dated April 14, 2003.		
SIGNATURE					
			of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 uthorized.	, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the	
	STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION (Registrant)				
	14, 2003 rate		By:	/s/ William R. Basom William R. Basom Vice President, Treasurer, and Principal Accounting Officer	
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