

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 22, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Pontius, Stanley N.
 8 Churchill Street
 Hamilton, OH 45013
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 308-48-1245
4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
 01/17/2003
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Executive Officer
7. 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 Security | 2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year) | 2A.Execu- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year) | 3. Trans- action Code V | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount A/D Price | 5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Report Transa |
|----------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Common Stock | 01/17/2003 | | J | 7180 A \$0.0000 | 65129 |