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STERLING BANCORP
Form 8-K
February 20, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 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) February 19, 2004

Commission File Number: 1-5273-1

Sterling Bancorp

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

New York

13-2565216

(State of other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

10019-6108

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(212) 757- 3300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if
changed since last report)

ITEM 5

OTHER EVENTS

On February 19, 2004 the Company issued a press release announcing the declaration of a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.19 per common share payable on March 31, 2004 to shareholders of record on March 15, 2004. The press release is included herein as Exhibit 99.1.

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ITEM 7

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

- (a) Financial Statements of the Business Acquired
Not Applicable

- (b) Pro Forma Financial Information
Not Applicable

- (c) Exhibits
99.1 Press Release dated February 19, 2004

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 hereunto duly authorized.

DATE: February 20, 2004

BY: /s/ JOHN W. TIETJEN

JOHN W. TIETJEN
Executive Vice President, Treasurer
and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit
Number

99.1

Press Release dated February 19, 2004