FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form 4
October 09, 2002

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
   Posey, Steven C.
   McDonald's Office
   1733 S. Breiel
   Middletown, OH 45044
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
   First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
   289-42-9794
4. Statement for Month/Year
   10/2002
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
   (X) Director ( ) 10% Owner
   ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other (specify below)
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
   (X) 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)	3. Trans-action Code		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amou Secu Bene Owne End Mont
		Code	V	Amount	A/D	Price	
Common Stock							1594
Common Stock							1716
Common Stock							5295
Common Stock							1366
Common Stock							48077
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	10/07/2002	P		140	A	$18.2500	2102

TABLE II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conver-sion or Exercise Price of Deriv-ative Security	3. Transac-tion Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transac-tion Code		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired(A) Disposed(D)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities		8
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exer-cisable	Expira-tion Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	P D S

1997 (NQ) Stock Option	$13.148							04/22/2007	Common Stock	
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	$20.671							04/22/2009	Common Stock	
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	$18.84							04/23/2012	Common Stock	

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE
10/07/2002