

HARLOW JOHN M
Form 4
February 22, 2006

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
HARLOW JOHN M

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
**STERLING FINANCIAL CORP
/WA/ [STSA]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/17/2006

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
☒ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
Vice President - Sterling Sav.

SPOKANE, WA 99201

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
☒ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	02/17/2006	02/21/2006	J ⁽¹⁾		6,000	A	\$ 28.71
Common Stock	02/17/2006	02/21/2006	J ⁽¹⁾		1,500	A	\$ 28.71
Common Stock							7,201
							I
							401(k) Plan

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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information contained in this form are not
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SEC 1474
(9-02)

number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Date of Exercise (Instr. 3 and 4)	9. Amount or Number of Shares	10. Cost or Other Value (Instr. 3 and 4)
Stock Option	\$ 8.4 ⁽²⁾	02/17/2006	02/21/2006	J ⁽¹⁾	1,500	12/17/1998 02/28/2006	Common Stock	1,500	\$	
Stock Option	\$ 12.7867 ⁽²⁾	02/17/2006	02/21/2006	J ⁽¹⁾	6,000	12/16/1999 02/28/2006	Common Stock	6,000	\$	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
HARLOW JOHN M 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Vice President - Sterling Sav.

Signatures

E. Marie Hirsch 02/21/2006

^{**}Signature of Date
Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Cash purchase transaction

(2) Price not adjusted for the 3-for-2 stock split on 8/31/05

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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