

FULLER ROBERT B
Form 3
July 14, 2006

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting
Person *

^ FULLER ROBERT B

(Last) (First) (Middle)

111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

SPOKANE, ^ WA ^ 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring
Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

07/05/2006

3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]

4. Relationship of Reporting
Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____ Officer ____X____ Other
(give title below) (specify below)

SECTION 16

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

6. 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 Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security
(Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities
Beneficially Owned
(Instr. 4)

3. Ownership
Form:
Direct (D)
or Indirect
(I)
(Instr. 5)

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial
Ownership
(Instr. 5)

Common Stock

33,550

D ^

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form displays a
currently valid OMB control number.**

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

1. Title of Derivative Security
(Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and
Expiration Date
(Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of
Securities Underlying
Derivative Security
(Instr. 4)

4. Conversion
or Exercise
Price of
Derivative
Security

5. Ownership
Form of
Derivative
Security:
Direct (D)
or Indirect

6. Nature of Indirect
Beneficial
Ownership
(Instr. 5)

Date
Exercisable

Expiration
Date

Title

Amount or
Number of

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				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	07/05/2006	03/01/2011	Common Stock	55,161	\$ 8.34	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
FULLER ROBERT B 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â	Â	Â	SECTION 16

Signatures

William R
Basom 07/14/2006

Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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).

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

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.