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BANNER CENTRAL FINANCE CO
Form SC 13G
February 12, 2002

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Banner Central Finance Company

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

06652W107

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2001

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

This Schedule is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b).

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

[Continued on the following pages]

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CUSIP #: 06652W107

1. Name of Reporting Person:
(I.R.S. Identification No. of above person):

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First Financial Fund, Inc.
13-3341573

-
2. Check the appropriate box if a member of a group:
(a)
(b)

3. SEC use only:

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization:

Maryland

	5. Sole Voting Power	574,200
Number of shares	-----	-----
beneficially owned by	6. Shared Voting Power	0
each Reporting Person with	-----	-----
	7. Sole Dispositive Power	0
	-----	-----
	8. Shared Dispositive Power	574,200

9. Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person:

574,200

10. Check if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares:

11. Percent of class represented by amount in row (9):

7.74%

12. Type of Reporting Person:

IV

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Item 1(a): Name of Issuer:

Banner Central Finance Company

Item 1(b): Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

5480 East Ferguson Drive
Commerce, California 90022

Item 2(a): Name of Person Filing:

First Financial Fund, Inc.

Item 2(b): Address of Principal Business Office:

Gateway Center Three
100 Mulberry Street, 9th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102-7503

Item 2(c): Citizenship:

Maryland

Item 2(d): Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2(e): CUSIP Number:

320228109

Item 3: Type of Person Filing Pursuant to Secs. 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b)

or (c):

An investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8)

Item 4: Ownership:

- (a) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED: First Financial Fund, Inc., a registered closed-end investment company, may be deemed the beneficial owner of 574,200 shares of common stock of the Issuer.
- (b) PERCENT OF CLASS: 7.74%
- (c) VOTING AND DISPOITIVE POWER: First Financial Fund, Inc. has sole power to vote or to direct the vote and shared power

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to dispose or to direct the disposition of 574,200 shares of common stock of the Issuer. First Financial Fund, Inc. has shared power to vote or to direct the vote and sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 0 shares of common stock of the Issuer.

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Item 5: Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

Not Applicable

Item 6: Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

Not Applicable

Item 7: Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired

the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:

Not Applicable

Item 8: Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

Not Applicable

Item 9: Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Not Applicable

Item 10: Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Signature:

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

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Date: February 11, 2002

Signature: /s/Arthur J. Brown

Name/Title: Arthur J. Brown
Secretary