

STERLING BANCORP
Form 5
January 26, 2009

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Ugelow Seth

(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
STERLING BANCORP [STL]

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2008

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Sr. Vice President/Controller

STERLING BANCORP, 650
FIFTH AVENUE

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

NEW YORK, NY 10019

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 (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) (A) or (D) Price | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|

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

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.

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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 | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|

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| Derivative Security | | | | Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | An or Nu of Sha |
|--|----------|---|---|---|-----|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | | | (A) | (D) | | | | |
| Non-qualified stock options (right to buy) | \$ 17.99 | ^ | ^ | ^ | ^ | 03/15/2012 ⁽¹⁾ | 03/15/2017 | Common Stock | 5 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Ugelow Seth STERLING BANCORP 650 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10019 | ^ | ^ | ^ Sr. Vice President/Controller | ^ |

Signatures

/s/ Ugelow, Seth 02/12/2009
 **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) Non-qualified options become exercisable commencing on the fifth anniversary of the grant for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.