

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 07, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
Thatcher, Perry D.
7 Gardner Place
Middletown, OH 45042
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
269-26-4883
4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
01/06/2003
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)	2A.Execu- tion Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3. Trans- action Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount A/D Price	5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Report Transa
Common Stock					5163
Common Stock					5613
Common Stock					151.49

FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan) 01/06/2003 P 145 A \$17.0985 2247

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

1.	2.	3.	3A.	4.	5.	6.	7.
							Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
	Conversion or Exercise Price of	Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	Execu- tion Date (Month/ Day/ Year)		Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) Disposed (D)	Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	Amount or Number of Shares
1997 (NQ)	\$13.148					04/22/2007	Common

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Stock
Option
2000 (NQ) \$16.9048
Stock
Option

Stock
04/25/2010 Common
Stock

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE
01/07/2003