BARNETT RODNEY W

Form 4

December 23, 2004

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

> 10% Owner Other (specify

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

response...

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

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(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **BARNETT RODNEY W**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Issuer

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

/WA/[STSA] (Middle)

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

Officer (give title below) 12/21/2004

111 NORTH WALL STREET

(First)

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

X_ Director

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

SPOKANE, WA 99201-

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 1.Title of Security (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3)

Execution Date, if Code (Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 5. Number 6. Date Exercisable and Derivative Conversion Transaction of Derivative Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year) Security or Exercise Code Securities any

(Instr. 3 and 4)

7. Title and Amoun

Underlying Securit

Edgar Filing: BARNETT RODNEY W - Form 4

(Instr. 3) Price of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)

Code V (A) (D) Date

Date Expiration Title Amo Exercisable Date or

Num

of Share

2,0

Non-Statutory Stock Option \$ 0 12/21/2004 12/21/2004 A 2,000 12/21/2005 02/28/2015 Common Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BARNETT RODNEY W

111 NORTH WALL STREET X

SPOKANE, WA 99201-

Signatures

William R. 12/23/2004 Basom

**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).

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.

Reporting Owners 2