

SIERRA BANCORP  
Form SC 13G  
February 12, 2004

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

**SCHEDULE 13G**

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Sierra Bancorp

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(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

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(Title of Class of Securities)

82620P102

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(Cusip Number)

12/31/03

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**(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)**

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Morris A. Tharp

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

U.S.

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 514,480

SHARES

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

EACH

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING

PERSON

514,480

WITH

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

514,480

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10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \*

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11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

5.50%

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON \*

IN

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CUSIP No. 82620P102

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- Item 1:** (a) Issuer:  
Sierra Bancorp
- (b) Principal Executive Offices: 86 North Main Street,  
Porterville, CA. 93257
- Item 2:** (a) Person Filing: Morris A. Tharp
- (b) Address: 15243 Road 192, Porterville, CA 93257
- (c) Citizen of the U.S.A.
- (d) Class of Securities: Common Stock, no par value
- (e) Cusip #82620P102
- Item 3:** N/A
- Item 4:** (a) Total Shares Beneficially Owned: 514,480
- (b) Percentage of Ownership: 5.50%
- (c) (i) Shares with Sole Voting Power: 514,480 (includes 100,000 vested option shares)
- (ii) Shares with Shared Voting Power: None
- (iii) Shares with Sole Investment Power: Same shares as Item i above
- (iv) Shares with Shared Investment Power: None
- Item 5:** N/A
- Item 6:** N/A
- Item 7:** N/A
- Item 8:** N/A
- Item 9:** N/A
- Item 10:** N/A

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.

Dated: February 9, 2004

/s/ Morris A. Tharp

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Morris A. Tharp