

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

October 09, 2002

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/Year
10/2002
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. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount or Value of Securities
			Amount	A/D	Price	
Common Stock						5163
Common Stock						5613
Common Stock						151,496
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	10/07/2002	P	140	A	\$18.2500	2102

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code	5. Acquired (A) or Disposed (D)	6. Number of Securities	7. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	8. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
							Amount or Number of Shares
1997 (NQ)	\$13.148					04/22/2007	Common

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Stock Option			Stock
2000 (NQ)	\$16.9048	04/25/2010	Common
Stock Option			Stock

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE

10/07/2002