

FULLER ROBERT B  
 Form 3  
 July 14, 2006

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â FULLER ROBERT B		(Month/Day/Year)	STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	07/05/2006	
111 N. WALL STREET		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)		(Check all applicable)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
SPOKANE,Â WAÂ 99201		<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below)    (specify below)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	SECTION 16	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	33,550	D	Â

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	

				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	07/05/2006	03/01/2011	Common Stock	55,161	\$ 8.34	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships				Other
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other	
FULLER ROBERT B 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WAA 99201	Â	Â	Â		SECTION 16

## Signatures

William R  
Basom

07/14/2006

\_\_Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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.