

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 8-K

March 26, 2003

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report: March 26, 2003

**FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

0-12379  
(Commission File  
Number)

31-1042001  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

300 High Street  
Hamilton, Ohio  
(Address of principal executive  
offices)

45011  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 867-5240

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**First Financial Bancorp.**

**Item 7. Exhibits.**

(a) Exhibits:

99.1 Certification of Periodic Financial Report By Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

99.2 Certification of Periodic Financial Report By Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On March 26, 2003, Stanley N. Pontius, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Financial Bancorp., and C. Douglas Lefferson, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of First Financial Bancorp., each signed the Certification of Periodic Financial Report pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 in connection with the First Financial Bancorp. Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002. The Certifications were submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 26, 2003. A copy of each of these Certifications is attached as Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 hereto.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.**

By: /s/ C. Douglas Lefferson  
C. Douglas Lefferson  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 26, 2003

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**Exhibit Index**

<b>Exhibit Nos.</b>	<b>Description</b>
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