

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 8-K

December 31, 2003

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**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: December 30, 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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Item 5. Other Event and Regulation FD Disclosure.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

**SIGNATURES**

Exhibit Index

Exhibit 99.1

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**First Financial Bancorp**

**Item 5. Other Event and Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On December 30, 2003, First Financial Bancorp. issued a press release providing an update on recently completed initiatives, fourth quarter earnings, and the search for a new president and chief executive officer. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

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**Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits:

99.1 First Financial Bancorp. Press Release dated December 30, 2003.

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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

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C. Douglas Lefferson  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 31, 2003

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**Exhibit Index**

<b><u>Exhibit No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
99.1	First Financial Bancorp. Press Release dated December 30, 2003.