

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
September 12, 2005

**Table of Contents**

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549  
FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)**

**August 18, 2005**

**Commission File Number:**

**1-5273-1**

**Sterling Bancorp**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

New York

13-2565216

(State of other jurisdiction of incorporation)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

10019-6108

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(212) 757- 3300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ITEM 5.02 DEPARTURE OF DIRECTORS OR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS; ELECTION OF  
DIRECTORS; APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS  
SIGNATURE

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**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 5.02**

**DEPARTURE OF DIRECTORS OR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS; ELECTION OF DIRECTORS;  
APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS**

(a)-(c) Not applicable

(d)(1) On September 8, 2005, the Company issued a press release announcing the appointment of Robert W. Lazar to the Board of Directors of both Sterling Bancorp and Sterling National Bank. The Board of Directors approved the appointment of Mr. Lazar on August 18, 2005, subject to his acquiring a sufficient number of common shares of Sterling Bancorp to satisfy bank regulatory requirements, and Mr. Lazar acquired such shares on August 23, 2005.

(d)(2)-(4) None

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**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURE**

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.

DATE: September 12, 2005

BY: /s/ JOHN W. TIETJEN

JOHN W. TIETJEN  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer