

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
February 17, 2009  
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)

February 12, 2009

Commission File Number:

1-5273-1

**Sterling Bancorp**  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

New York  
(State of other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

13-2565216  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York  
(Address of principal executive offices)

10019-6108  
(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))**
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SIGNATURE

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**ITEM 8.01**

**OTHER EVENTS**

On February 12, 2009, the Company announced the declaration of a cash dividend of \$0.19 per common share payable on March 31, 2009 to shareholders of record on March 15, 2009.

The Board of Directors also established May 7, 2009 as the date of the Company's annual meeting of shareholders, which will be held at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time at the University Club, 1 West 54th Street, New York, N.Y., 10019.

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**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: February 17, 2009

BY: /s/ John W. Tietjen  
JOHN W. TIETJEN  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

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