

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

May 16, 2003

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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### 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) May 16, 2003

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### STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Washington**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**0-20800**  
(Commission File Number)

**91-1572822**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

**(509) 458-3711**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 5. Other Events.**

On May 16, 2003, Sterling Financial Corporation issued a press release announcing that its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Sterling Capital Trust IV and Sterling Capital Statutory Trust V, had issued \$30 million of trust preferred securities. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

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

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated May 16, 2003.

**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 thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

May 16, 2003  
Date

By: /s/ William R. Basom  
**William R. Basom**  
Vice President, Treasurer, and  
Principal Accounting Officer