

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

February 12, 2013

UNITED STATES
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: February 11, 2013
(Date of earliest event reported)

Sterling Financial Corporation

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Washington

001-34696

91-1572822

(State or other jurisdiction

(Commission File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer

of incorporation or organization)

Identification Number)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)

(509) 358-8097

(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)

Not Applicable

(Former Name or Former Address, 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 (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On February 11, 2013, Sterling Financial Corporation and its principal operating subsidiary, Sterling Savings Bank (the "Bank"), received final regulatory approval for the Bank to complete its previously announced acquisition of American Heritage Holdings and its principal operating subsidiary Borrego Springs Bank, NA.

The acquisition of American Heritage Holdings and Borrego Springs Bank, NA. is expected to be completed on February 28, 2013, subject to satisfaction of the closing conditions set forth in the related Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and Merger.

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.

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Registrant)

February 12, 2013 By: /s/ Andrew J. Schultheis

Date Andrew J. Schultheis

EVP, General Counsel