

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP

Form 425

December 06, 2005

**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 (Date of earliest event reported): December 5, 2005

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Illinois
(State or other
jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

0-21923
(Commission File Number)

36-3873352
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**727 North Bank Lane
Lake Forest, Illinois**
(Address of principal
executive offices)

60045
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(847) 615-4096**

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last year)

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))
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Item 8.01. Other Event.

On December 5, 2005, Wintrust Financial Corporation (the Company) announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire Hinsbrook Bancshares, Inc. A copy of the press release relating to the Company s announcement of this agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1, and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated December 5, 2005.

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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.

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Registrant)

By: /s/ David L. Stoehr
David L. Stoehr
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 5, 2005

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated December 5, 2005.

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