

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## FORM 4

Statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2005-05-02** | Period of Report: **2005-04-26**

SEC Accession No. **0000708955-05-000049**

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### ISSUER

#### FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

CIK: **708955** | IRS No.: **311042001** | State of Incorporation: **OH** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**  
SIC: **6021** National commercial banks

Mailing Address  
300 HIGH ST  
HAMILTON OH 45011

Business Address  
300 HIGH ST  
HAMILTON OH 45011  
5138674700

### REPORTING OWNER

#### POSEY STEVEN C

CIK: **1167412**  
Type: **4** | Act: **34** | File No.: **000-12379** | Film No.: **05788507**

Mailing Address  
MCDONALDS OFFICE  
1733 S BREIEL  
MIDDLETOWN OH 45044

Business Address  
C/O FIRST FINANCIAL  
BANCORP  
300 HIGHSTREET PO BOX 476  
HAMILTON OH 45012  
5138674951

# FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: 02/28/2011  
 Estimated average burden  
 hours per response 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <b>POSEY STEVEN C</b>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]</b>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>04/26/2005</b>			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person		
60B S. AMERICAN WAY			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)					
(Street) <b>MONROE, OH 45050</b>								
(City)	(State)	(Zip)						

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock								131	D	
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)								3,892	D	
Common Stock								6,668	I	IRA
Common Stock								3,180	I	Trust
Common Stock								38,077	I	Trust(TEAZAK LTD)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
1997 (NQ)	\$13.148							04/22/1998	04/22/2007	Common Stock	6,195	6,195	D	

Stock Option															
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$20.671						04/22/2000	04/22/2009	Common Stock	8,663		8,663		D	
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$18.84						04/23/2003	04/23/2012	Common Stock	8,663		8,663		D	
2005 (NQ) Stock Option	\$17.08	04/26/2005		<u>A</u>		8,663	04/26/2006	04/26/2015	Common Stock	8,663	\$17.08	8,663		D	

**Signatures**

Terri J. Ziepfel

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

05/02/2005

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**