

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
October 19, 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) October 16, 2009

Commission File Number: 1-5273-1

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)	<b>Sterling Bancorp</b>
New York (State of other jurisdiction of incorporation)	<b>13-2565216 (IRS Employer Identification No.)</b>
<b>650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York</b> (Address of principal executive offices)	<b>10019-6108 (Zip Code)</b>
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)	<b>(212) 757- 3300</b>
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)	<b>N/A</b>

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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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PRESS RELEASE

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**ITEM 7.01**

**REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE**

On October 16, 2009, the Company issued a press release commenting that it is not related to either Sterling Financial Corp. of Spokane, Washington or its Sterling Savings Bank subsidiary or to any other publicly traded company having Sterling in its name. This press release is included as Exhibit 99.1.

**ITEM 9.01**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press release dated October 16, 2009 (furnished pursuant to Item 7.01)

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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: October 19, 2009

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

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit

Number

99.1 Press Release dated October 16, 2009

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