

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 4  
December 17, 2008

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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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 OF SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
CISLE DONALD M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
4000 SMITH RD., SUITE 400

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/17/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Street)  
CINCINNATI, OH 45209

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 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 (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/17/2008		G	V 275 D \$ 0	18,737	D <sup>(1)</sup>	
Common Stock	12/17/2008		G	V 250 D \$ 0	18,487	D <sup>(1)</sup>	
Common Stock					539	I	Joint W/wife
Common Stock					2,692	I	Restricted
Common Stock					201,894	I	Seward-murphy

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Common Stock	165	I	Spouse
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	7,767	D	

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

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(9-02)

**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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
						Code	V (A) (D)		
1996 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 11.0587					02/27/1997 02/27/2006	Common Stock	0	
1998 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 21.5958					04/28/1999 04/28/2008	Common Stock	6,195	
2001 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 15.6					04/24/2002 04/24/2011	Common Stock	8,663	
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.63					04/27/2005 04/27/2014	Common Stock	8,663	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
CISLE DONALD M 4000 SMITH RD. SUITE 400 CINCINNATI, OH 45209	X			

## Signatures

/s/Terri J Ziepfel, POA	12/17/2008
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).
- (1) Held in Trust Management Account w/full investment authority

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.