

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 4  
October 12, 2004

**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 \*  
MARCUM STEPHEN S

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)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
10/08/2004

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

OHIO CASUALTY CORP, 9450 SEWARD ROAD

(Street)

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

FAIRFIELD, OH 45014

(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)	
				(A) or (D)	Price			
				Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock					24,410	D		
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	10/08/2004		P	A	\$ 3,473	D		
Common Stock					9,853	I	Daughter(E.M.)	
Common Stock					9,726	I	Daughter(M.A.)	

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Common Stock	11,395	I	Son(R.J.)
Common Stock	9,853	I	Son(S.M.)
Common Stock	12,654	I	Spouse
Common Stock	36,894	I	Trustee/Fdn

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 or Value of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
1996 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 10.8941					04/23/1997	04/23/2006	Common Stock	6,195
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 20.671					04/27/2000	04/27/2009	Common Stock	8,663
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 18.84					04/23/2003	04/23/2012	Common Stock	8,663

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MARCUM STEPHEN S OHIO CASUALTY CORP 9450 SEWARD ROAD FAIRFIELD, OH 45014	X			

## Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel	10/12/2004
<u>  </u> 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).

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.