

HOCKEMEYER REX A
 Form 4
 January 22, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Hockemeyer, Rex A.
 8366 Meadowlark Drive
 West Chester, OH 45069
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 303-58-2339
4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
 01/17/2003
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Executive Officer
7. 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	2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	2A.Execu- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3. Trans- action Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Report Transa
			Code V	Amount	A/D Price
Common Stock	01/17/2003		J	1062	A \$0.0000 2892