FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form 4
January 23, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
   Murrell, III, C. Thomas
   10946 Allenhurst Blvd., East
   Cincinnati, OH 45241
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
   First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
   301-38-1937
4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
   01/22/2003
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
   ( ) Director ( ) 10% Owner
   (X) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other (specify below)
   Executive Officer
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
   (X) 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. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Execution Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transa
			Code	V	Amount	A/D	Price	
Common Stock								2525
Common Stock	01/22/2003		A		7000	A	$0.0000	13977