

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

August 04, 2006

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 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): August 4, 2006**

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

0-20800
(Commission File Number)

91-1572822
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(509) 458-3711
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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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INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On August 4, 2006, Sterling Financial Corporation announced that INTERVEST-Mortgage Investment Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sterling Savings Bank, has acquired the servicing portfolio and other assets of Mason-McDuffie Financial Corporation, a well known mortgage banking operation in Northern California. The transaction closed on July 31, 2006. The text of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) The following exhibit is being filed herewith:

Exhibit No. Exhibit Description

99.1 Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated August 4, 2006.

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 thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL
CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

August 4, 2006

Date

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

Daniel G. Byrne

Executive Vice President, Assistant

Secretary,

and Principal Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Exhibit Description</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| 99.1 | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated August 4, 2006. |