

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. |