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FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 3

April 26, 2005

FORM 3

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB Number:

3235-0104

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Expires:

January 31, 2005

0.5

SECURITIES

Estimated average burden hours per response...

OMB APPROVAL

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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC] PURKRABEK KNUST (Month/Day/Year) 04/26/2005 SUSAN L (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 8340 CAROLINES TRAIL (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner _X_ Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Officer Other Person (give title below) (specify below) CINCINNATI, OHÂ 45242 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) $D^{(1)}$ Â Common Stock 525 Â Common Stock 1,102 D I (2) Common Stock 1,308,7544 K.P. Properties Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security 2. Date Exercisable and 3. Title and Amount of 4. 5. 6. Nature of Indirect (Instr. 4) Expiration Date Securities Underlying Conversion Ownership Beneficial

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			Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		or Exercise Price of	Form of Derivative	Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	04/26/2006	04/26/2016	Common Stock	8,663	\$ 17.08	D	Â

Reporting Owners

	Relationshi		nships	ps	
Reporting Owner Name / Address	Director	10% Owner Officer	Other		
PURKRABEK KNUST SUSAN L					
8340 CAROLINES TRAIL	ÂΧ	Â	Â	Â	
CINCINNATI, OH 45242					

Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel 04/26/2005

**Signature of Person

**Bignature of Person

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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).
- (1) Held in Brokerage Account
- (2) Includes shares in dividend reinvestment account

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.

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