

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form SC 13G
February 15, 2006

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Amendment No.: *

Name of Issuer: First Financial Bancorp (OH)

Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock

CUSIP Number: 320209109

Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement: 12/31/2005

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed.

- Rule 13d-1(b)
 Rule 13d-1(c)
 Rule 13d-1(d)

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No.: 320209109

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON
Mac-Per-Wolf Company
EIN #36-3099763
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. SEC USE ONLY

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4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

- 5. SOLE VOTING POWER
34,470
- 6. SHARED VOTING POWER
-2,520,500-
- 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
34,470
- 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
-2,520,500-
- 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
2,554,970
- 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
Not applicable
- 11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
6.5%
- 12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
HC

Item 1.

(a). Name of Issuer: First Financial Bancorp (OH) ("First Financial")

(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

300 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

Item 2.

(a)-(c). Name, Principal Business Address, and Citizenship of Persons

Filing:

- (1) Mac-Per-Wolf Company
311 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 6000
Chicago, IL 60606
Citizenship: Delaware

(d). Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock

(e). CUSIP Number: 320209109

Item 3.

This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1 (b) and the person filing, Mac-Per-Wolf Company, is a parent holding company in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). See Item 7 for additional

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information.

Item 4. Ownership

The information in items 1 and 5 through 11 on the cover page(s) on Schedule 13G is hereby incorporated by reference.

Perkins, Wolf, McDonnell and Company, LLC furnishes investment advice to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 and to individual and institutional clients (collectively referred to herein as "Managed Portfolios").

The shared voting and dispositive holdings are held by Perkins, Wolf, McDonnell and Company, LLC, and such holdings may also be aggregated within 13g filings submitted by Janus Capital Management, LLC, a minority owner of Perkins, Wolf, McDonnell and Company, LLC.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

The Managed Portfolios, set forth in Item 4 above, have the right to receive all dividends from, and the proceeds from the sale of, the securities held in their respective accounts.

The interest of any one such person does not exceed 5% of the class of securities.

These shares were acquired in the ordinary course of business, and not with the purpose of changing or influencing control of the Issuer.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company

The reporting person, Mac-Per-Wolf Company, is filing on behalf of its two subsidiaries:

1) PWMCO, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mac-Per-Wolf Company and is both a broker dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940

2) Perkins, Wolf, McDonnell and Company, LLC is a subsidiary of Mac-Per-Wolf Company, and is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification

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By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Mac-Per-Wolf Company

By /s/ Gregory E. Wolf
Gregory E. Wolf,
Treasurer

2/14/2006
Date