

FIRST BANCORP /PR/
Form 8-K
December 23, 2008

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):

December 23, 2008

First BanCorp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Puerto Rico

001-14793

66-0561882

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1519 Ponce de Leon Ave., PO Box 9146, San
Juan, Puerto Rico

00908-0146

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

787-729-8041

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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Item 8.01 Other Events.

On December 23, 2008, First BanCorp (the "Corporation") issued a press release announcing that it has received preliminary approval from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the "Treasury") to participate in its Capital Purchase Program. As a result, the Corporation expects to issue and sell to Treasury \$400 million in newly issued shares of the Corporation's preferred equity and a warrant to purchase shares of the Corporation's common stock. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press Release dated December 23, 2008

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SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

First BanCorp.

December 23, 2008

By: *Fernando Scherrer*

Name: Fernando Scherrer

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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Exhibit Index

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 99.1 | Press Release dated December 23, 2008 |