

BANNER CORP  
Form 4  
December 22, 2004

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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 Person \*  
SIRMON GARY

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O BANNER CORP, PO BOX 907

(Street)

WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
BANNER CORP [BANR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/21/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

Chairman of the Board

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	12/21/2004		F		3,147	D	\$ 31.775 (1) 166,835 (2) D
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	12/21/2004		M		3,843	A	\$ 13.6932 170,678 (2) D
Common Stock,	12/21/2004		M		338	A	\$ 13.0938 171,016 (2) D

\$.01 par  
value per  
share

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
					Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date		
Option to buy Common Stock	\$ 13.6932	12/21/2004		M	6,754		12/21/2000 <sup>(3)</sup>	12/21/2009	Common Stock	6,754
Option to buy Common Stock	\$ 13.0938	12/21/2004		M	574		11/21/2001 <sup>(4)</sup>	11/21/2010	Common Stock	574

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SIRMON GARY C/O BANNER CORP PO BOX 907 WALLA WALLA, WA 99362	X			Chairman of the Board

## Signatures

/s/ Gary Sirmon 12/21/2004

\*\*Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(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) Market price on December 21, 2004.
- (2) Includes direct ownership of 1,756 shares through IRA, 38,866 shares through Deferred Compensation Plan, 11,173 shares through Employee Stock Ownership Plan and 3,300 shares through Profit Sharing Plan.
- (3) Options vest at rate of 20% per year from date of grant on 12/21/99.
- (4) Options vest at rate of 20% per year from date of grant on 11/21/00.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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