

SIERRA BANCORP  
Form SC 13G  
February 12, 2004

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20006**

**SCHEDULE 13G**

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Sierra Bancorp

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(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

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(Title of Class of Securities)

82620P102

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(CUSIP Number)

12/31/03

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**(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)**

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)

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1. Names of Reporting Persons

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only)

Howard H. Smith

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2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group\*

(a)

(b)

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3. SEC Use Only

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4. Citizenship or Place of Organization

U.S

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5. Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF 480,034

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SHARES

6. Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

None

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EACH

7. Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

480,034

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WITH

8. Shared Dispositive Power

None

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9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

480,034

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10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

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11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

5.10%

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12. Type of Reporting Person\*

IN

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**Item 1:** (a) Issuer:

Sierra Bancorp

(b) Principal Executive Offices:

86 North Main Street,

Porterville, CA. 93257

**Item 2:** (a) Person Filing:

Howard H. Smith

(b) Address:

421 East Morton, Porterville, CA. 93257

(c) Citizen of the U.S.A.

(d) Class of Securities:

Common Stock, no par value

(e) Cusip #

82620P102

**Item 3:** N/A

**Item 4:** (a) Total Shares Beneficially Owned: 480,034

(b) Percentage Ownership: 5.10%

(c) (i) Shares with Sole Voting Power: 480,034 (includes 90,000 vested option shares)

(ii) Shares with Shared Voting Power: None

(iii) Shares with Sole Investment Power: Same shares as Item i above

(iv) Shares with Shared Investment Power: None

**Item 5:** N/A

**Item 6:** N/A

**Item 7:** N/A

**Item 8:** N/A

**Item 9:** N/A

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**Item 10:** N/A

Signature

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.

Dated: February 9, 2004

/s/ Howard H. Smith

Howard H. Smith