

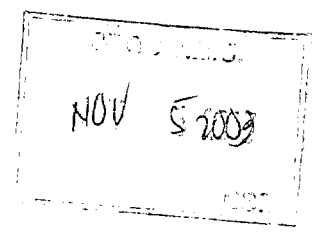


Cert NYS



1-14793

November 5, 2003



Mr. Brian Johnson
Branch Chief
Securities and Exchange Commission
Branch of Filer Support 2
Room 1004 -- STOP/1-4
450 Fifth Street, NW
Judiciary Plaza
Washington, DC 20549

PROCESSED
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THOMSON
FINANCIAL

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The New York Stock Exchange certifies approval for listing and registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, First BanCorp., 7.00% Noncumulative Perpetual Monthly Income Preferred Stock, Series E (par value \$1.00 per share) and requests immediate acceleration of registration. Adequate distribution assured. Form 8-A received on November 5, 2003. Tentative listing date – November 7, 2003.

Sincerely,

Carol Madsen