DOWNEY FINANCIAL CORP Form SC 13G February 10, 2004

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Downey Financial Corp.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

261018105

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2003

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

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

[X] 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).

Page 1 of 9 pages

No. 261018105	13G Page 2 of 9 P	ages
NAME OF REPORT		
	IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON	
CHECK THE APPR	OPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	
Not Applica	ble	(a)[] (b)[]
SEC USE ONLY		
CITIZENSHIP OR	PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
Delaware		
NUMBER OF	5 SOLE VOTING POWER	
SHARES	None	
BENEFICIALLY	6 SHARED VOTING POWER	
OWNED BY	1,417,700	
- A CII	7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	
REPORTING	None	
PERSON WITH	8 SHADED DISPOSITIVE DOWER	
LINGON WITH		
AGGREGATE AMOU	NT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON	
1,417,700		
CHECK BOX IF T	HE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	
Not Applica		[]
PERCENT OF CLA		
5.1%		
 TYPE OF REPORT	ING PERSON	
IA		
	Columbia Wa CHECK THE APPR Not Applica SEC USE ONLY CITIZENSHIP OR Delaware NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY DWNED BY CACH REPORTING PERSON WITH AGGREGATE AMOU 1,417,700 CHECK BOX IF T Not Applica SERCENT OF CLA 5.1%	Columbia Wanger Asset Management, L.P. 36-3820584 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP Not Applicable SEC USE ONLY CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware SHARES None SHARES None 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER CACH None REPORTING PERSON WITH 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 1,417,700 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,417,700 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES Not Applicable PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 5.1%

CUSIP No. 2610181	13G Page 3 of 9 P	
S.S. or I.R.	ORTING PERSON S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON Esition GP, Inc.	
	PPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	
Not Appli	cable	(a)[]
3 SEC USE ONLY	/ (
	OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
NUMBER OF	5 SOLE VOTING POWER	
SHARES	None	
BENEFICIALLY		
OWNED BY	6 SHARED VOTING POWER	
EACH	1,417,700	
REPORTING PERSON WITH	7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER None	
	8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	
	1,417,700	
9 AGGREGATE AM	40UNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON	
10 CHECK BOX IF	T THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES	
Not Appli	icable	[]
11 PERCENT OF C	CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9	
5.1%		
12 TYPE OF REPO	DRTING PERSON	
СО		

Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:

Downey Financial Corp.

Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

3501 Jamboree Road Newport Beach, CA 92660

Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing:

Columbia Wanger Asset Management, L.P. ("WAM") WAM Acquisition GP, Inc., the general partner of WAM ("WAM GP")

Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

WAM and WAM GP are both located at:

227 West Monroe Street, Suite 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60606

Item 2(c) Citizenship:

WAM is a Delaware limited partnership; and WAM GP is a Delaware corporation

Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2(e) CUSIP Number:

261018105

Item 3 Type of Person:

(e) WAM is an Investment Adviser registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940; WAM GP is the General Partner of the Investment Adviser.

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- Item 4 Ownership (at December 31, 2003):
 - (a) Amount owned "beneficially" within the meaning of rule 13d-3:

1,417,700

(b) Percent of class:

5.1% (based on 27,928,722 shares outstanding as of September 30, 2003).

- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
 - (i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: none
 - (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 1,417,700

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: none

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct disposition of: 1,417,700

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 shares reported herein have been acquired on behalf of discretionary clients of WAM. Persons other than WAM and WAM GP are entitled to receive all dividends from, and proceeds from the sale of, those shares.

Not Applicable

Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

Not Applicable

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Not Applicable

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Item 10 Certification:

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

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Signature

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

Date: February 10, 2004

The undersigned corporation, on the date above written, agrees and consents to the joint filing on its behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with its beneficial ownership of the security reported herein.

WAM Acquisition GP, Inc.
for itself and as general partner of

COLUMBIA WANGER ASSET MANAGEMENT, L.P.

By: /s/ Bruce H. Lauer

Bruce H. Lauer

Senior Vice President and Secretary

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Exhibit Index

Exhibit 1 Joint Filing Agreement dated as of February 10, 2004 by and among Columbia Wanger Asset Management, L.P. and WAM Acquisition GP, Inc.

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EXHIBIT 1

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

The undersigned hereby agree to the joint filing of the Schedule $13\mathrm{G}$ to which this Agreement is attached.

Dated: February 10, 2004

WAM Acquisition GP, Inc. for itself and as general partner of COLUMBIA WANGER ASSET MANAGEMENT, L.P.

By: /s/ Bruce H. Lauer

Bruce H. Lauer

Senior Vice President and Secretary

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