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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

September 24, 2002

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 36

Rule 424(b)(3)

DATED: September 23, 2002

File No. 333-76894

(To Prospectus dated January 25, 2002,

and Prospectus Supplement dated January 25, 2002)

\$10,006,693,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: \$25,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 9/24/2002 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 9/24/2003 CUSIP#: 073928XS7

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Redemption Repayment Repayment
Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s)

N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:

Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[] LIBOR Telerate

[x] Prime Rate +

[] CMT Rate

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): -2.90%

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- + Prime Rate as reported on Telerate Page 5 under the heading "Bank Rates/Prime."
- * On the 24th of December, March, June and at Maturity.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.