

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104
Expires: September 30, 1998
Estimated average burden
hours per response 0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
<S> <C> <C> <C>

(Print or Type Responses)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* | 2. Date of Event Requiring statement (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Smith, Ollen Bruton | 11/10/97 | Sonic Automotive, Inc.-- SAH | |
| ----- (Last) (First) (Middle) | ----- | ----- | |
| Date of | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 6. If Amendment, Original |
| (Month/Day/Year) | | (Check all applicable) | ----- |
| 5401 E. Independence Blvd. | 3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person | X Director X 10% Owner | |
| ----- | (Voluntary) | X Officer (give title below) (specify below) | 7. Individual or Filing (Check Form filled by Person Form filled Reporting |
| (Street) | | Chief Executive Officer | |
| Joint/Group | | ----- | |
| Applicable Line) | | | |
| Charlotte, NC 28212 | | | |
| One Reporting | | | |
| ----- | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | |
| by More than One | | | |

Person
</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

Table I - Non Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Inst.4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class B Common Stock | 1,035,625 shares | D | |
| Class B Common Stock | 4,440,625 shares | I | Shares owned by Sonic Financial Corporation, Mr. Smith owns the substantial majority of the stock of Sonic Financial Corporation. |

</TABLE>

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b) (v).

(Over)
SEC 1473 (9-96)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Security | 6. Nature of Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.5) |
|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| ----- | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |

None

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| /s/ O. Bruton Smith | Nov. 10, 1997 |
| ----- ** Signature of Reporting Person | ----- Date |

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of acts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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

Potential person who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.