

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

FORM 5 APPROVAL  
CHECK BOX IF NO LONGER  
3235-0362  
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1998  
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY  
AVERAGE BURDEN  
CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).  
RESPONSE.....1.0  
FORM 3 HOLDINGS REPORTED  
FORM 4 TRANSACTIONS REPORTED

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

OMB  
OMB NUMBER  
EXPIRES:  
ESTIMATED  
HOURS PER

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

<S> 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*  
Person(s) to Issuer

<C> 2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or  
Trading Symbol

<C> 6. Relationship of Reporting  
(Check all applicable)  
 Director  
 Officer  
(give title below)  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Finance, Treasurer and

\_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other  
(specify below)  
Vice President-  
Wright, Theodore M.  
Secretary

Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person, (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year

5401 E. Independence Blvd. 12/98

(Street) Applicable

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

Charlotte, NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip) TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

7.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
of	Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Amount (A) or Price (D)	Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	Owner-ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
Indirect Title of Beneficial Security Ownership (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)						



