

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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>

(Print or Type Responses)			<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*			2. Date of Event Re-	4. Issuer Name and Ticker or	
Wright, Theodore M.			quiring statement	Trading Symbol	
-----			(Month/Day/Year)	Sonic Automotive, Inc.-- SAH	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	11/10/97	5. Relationship of Reporting	6. If Amendment,
Date of			-----	Person(s) to Issuer	Original
(Month/Day/Year)				(Check all applicable)	-----
5401 E. Independence Blvd.			3. IRS or Social Se-	X Director	10% Owner
-----			curity Number of	X Officer (give	___Other
(Street)			Reporting Person	title below) (specify below)	7. Individual or
Joint/Group			(Voluntary)	Chief Financial Officer	Filing (Check
Applicable Line)				-----	X Form filled by
Charlotte, NC 28212					Person
One Reporting					___ Form filled
-----					Reporting
(City)	(State)	(Zip)			
by More than One					
Person					

</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

Table I - Non Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Security	2. Amount of Securities	3. Ownership	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial
(Instr. 4)	Beneficially Owned	Form: Direct	Ownership (Instr. 5)
	(Inst.4)	(D) or Indirect	
		(I) (Instr.5)	

None			

</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)

FORM 3 (continued)

Table II-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned
(e.g. puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
<S>

<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exer-	3. Title and amount of Securities	4. Conver-	5. Owner-	6. Nature
of Indirect	cisable and	Underlying Derivative Security	sion or	ship	
(Instr. 4)					

Beneficial Ownership

(Instr. 4)

	Expiration (Instr. 4)		Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.5)
	Date (Month/Day/Year)	Expirable Date				
Options to purchase	10/9/98	10/9/07	Class A Common Stock	12,729	\$12.00	D
Options to purchase	10/9/99	10/9/07	Class A Common Stock	12,730	\$12.00	D
Options to purchase	10/9/00	10/9/07	Class A Common Stock	12,729	\$12.00	D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Theodore M. Wright Nov. 10, 1997

 ** Signature of Reporting Date
 Person

** 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.