

License Plates for Michigan's Historical Vehicles

Michigan, the automobile capital of the world, has many residents who collect and restore antique vehicles. Since 1956, the state has offered a special, inexpensive vehicle registration for older vehicles that are operated on the road only occasionally.

Many antique cars, trucks, and motorcycles qualify for special registration as Michigan historical vehicles. A qualifying vehicle may be registered with the Michigan Secretary of State either with a Michigan historical vehicle plate, or an actual Michigan license plate the same year as the historic vehicle's model year.

To qualify for a historical or authentic license plate, vehicle must be:

- 26 or more years old – based on vehicle model year subtracted from current calendar year
- Owned solely as a collector's item
- Used only for events such as historical club activities, parades, and car shows.

Note: A vehicle registered with a historical plate or authentic historic plate cannot be used for routine transportation, except during the month of August when it may be driven anywhere in the state without restrictions.

Historical Vehicle Plate

The Michigan historical vehicle plate is white with six blue numbers (four if a motorcycle plate). Historical vehicle plates are \$30 and valid for 10 years. To obtain one, present the following items at any Secretary of State office:

- (a) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the title.
- (b) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (c) \$30 fee (*make checks or money orders payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (d) The completed application on the reverse side.

If you do not have the original title or a copy of it, present a previous registration document as proof of ownership. Your historical vehicle plate will be mailed from Lansing to the address on the registration within 21-30 days.

Authentic License Plate

Michigan also allows residents to register their antique vehicle with a same-year general use Michigan license plate. Reproduction or remanufactured plates are not allowed. The plate must display the correct colors for the plate year.

For 1984 and later model year vehicles, blue plates with white letters were issued from 1984 through 2006. These plates may be used to apply for an authentic license plate registration if the plate displays an authentic Michigan year tab corresponding to the model year of the antique vehicle. The only exception is for the 1984 blue plate because tabs were not issued until 1985.

The authentic plate registration fee is \$35. Authentic plate registrations are valid until the vehicle is sold, transferred, scrapped, or modified. Authentic license plates must be registered by mail and are not handled by Secretary of State offices. To obtain a registration, provide all the following documents with your application:

- (a) A color photograph, a color scan, or a color photocopy of the license plate (passenger, commercial, trailer, or motorcycle). Do not mail the original plate. Personalized, government, law enforcement, manufacturer, dealer, intransit repair, disability, and special purpose license plates cannot be used as authentic license plates. **If in doubt, check with the department before purchasing a license plate.**
- (b) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the Michigan title.
- (c) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (d) \$35 fee (*make checks or money orders payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (e) The completed application on the reverse side.

You will receive a new registration within two weeks.