

# Museums, Casinos and Motown: The Detroit Outside Cobo Center

Joseph L. Hazelton

**B**esides Gear Expo 2001, Detroit is home to a museum with an 1896 Durya Motor Wagon, America's first production car; home to a casino in a building that used to be Internal Revenue Service offices; and home to the studio where Diana Ross and the Supremes recorded "Stop in the Name of Love."

For expo participants with some time on their hands, there's much to see and do in the city.

Besides the motor wagon, the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village has five presidential limousines, including the one in which President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Located in Dearborn, the museum and village has George Washington's Revolutionary War camp bed, Edgar Allan Poe's writing desk and the chair in which President Abraham Lincoln was sitting when he was assassinated in 1865. There are also Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory complex, where more than 400 inventions were produced, and the bicycle shop where the Wright brothers designed and built their first airplane.

The museum and village has a multimedia presentation that includes 100 cars and trucks from its 160-vehicle collection. The exhibit is called *The Automobile in American Life*.

Also, the Detroit Historical Museum features 100 years of automotive history in the *Motor City* exhibit. Located in Detroit, the museum has a *Glancy Trains* exhibit, an interactive display of model trains.

Detroit sports three casinos. A fourth casino is in neighboring Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The Greektown Casino has 75,000 square feet of gambling space, 2,400 slot machines and 104 table games. Also, the gambling space has a Mediterranean theme. The casino is near the Atheneum Suite Hotel and is about 12 blocks from Cobo Center, where Gear Expo 2001 will be held.

The MGM Grand Detroit also has 75,000 square feet of



gambling space, with more than 2,450 slot machines, as well as blackjack, craps, roulette, baccarat and poker. The seven-story building has a gold-and-bronze exterior and used to be offices for the IRS. The gambling space is designed with an art deco theme.

The casino is about 7 blocks from Cobo Center.

The Motor City Casino has more than 68,000 square feet of gambling space, 108 tables and about 2,600 electronic gambling devices, including slot machines and video poker machines. The casino also has blackjack, roulette, craps, baccarat and poker.

The casino is about 13 blocks from Cobo Center.

Across the Detroit River is Casino Windsor, which has 100,000 square feet of gambling space, including more than 3,000 slot machines and 700 table games. Also, the casino's hotel features a 60-foot-high waterfall. Water cascades three stories into a pool surrounded by rocks and tropical plants.

## GEAR EXPO 2001: THE BASICS

**WHO?** Anyone involved or interested in gears and gear manufacturing.

**WHAT?** An international industrial trade show featuring products and services of the gear industry.

**WHERE?** Oakland Hall, Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center, Detroit, MI.

**WHEN?** Oct. 7-10.

**WHY?** To see new and old products and services available to people in the gear industry.

For more information, contact the American Gear Manufacturers Association by telephone at (703) 684-0211, by fax at (703) 684-0242, by e-mail at [gearexpo@agma.org](mailto:gearexpo@agma.org), or on the Internet at [www.agma.org](http://www.agma.org). For information on expo exhibitors and more, visit [www.gearexpo.com](http://www.gearexpo.com) or visit *Show Central* at [www.geartechnologyexpo.com](http://www.geartechnologyexpo.com).

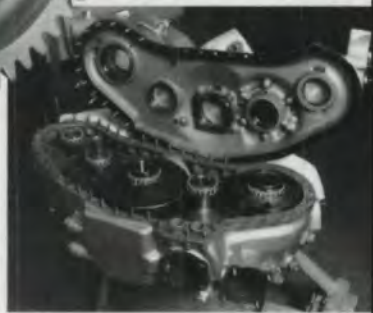


The Henry Ford Museum includes *The Automobile in American Life* exhibit. Credit: Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village.

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Hitsville U.S.A., the original home of Motown Record Corp., is part of the Motown Historical Museum. Credit Susan Stewart.

The recording studio for "Stop in the Name of Love" was Studio A, now a part of the Motown Historical Museum.

In 1959, Berry Gordy Jr., a songwriter who wanted to manage singers, bought a two-story house in Detroit. By the 1960s, his company, Motown Records, was thriving and consisted of seven houses. The original house was named "Hitsville U.S.A."

The Motown Historical Museum occupies two of the original seven houses. The two houses exhibit rare photographs, gold records, artists' costumes and other memorabilia.

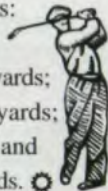
The museum is much like it was in the early '60s and includes the company's modest 1964 offices and tape library, with reel-to-reels, company manuals and newspaper clippings. A second exhibit reflects Gordy's 1959-60 apartment, where he and his staff sometimes spent all night packing records for shipping hit releases.

Besides Diana Ross and the Supremes, other musicians who recorded in Studio A were The Four Tops, The Jackson Five, Martha and the Vandellas, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Stevie Wonder, and The Temptations. "Dancin' In The Streets" and "My Girl" were also recorded in the studio.

The Detroit area has a diverse ethnic population with Arab, Greek, Hispanic and Polish neighborhoods, which offer a variety of foods, including baklava (a Middle Eastern pastry dessert), Greek salads, gyros, kielbasa (spicy, smoked Polish sausage), pierogis (Polish dumplings), shish kabob, spinach pie, tamales and tortillas.

Lastly, Detroit sports several golf courses, such as:

- Belle Isle golf course—9 holes, par 29, 1,881 yards;
- Chandler Park golf course—18 holes, par 71, 6,000 yards;
- Palmer Park golf course—18 holes, par 71, 6,007 yards;
- Rogel golf course—18 holes, par 70, 6,079 yards; and
- Rouge Park golf course—18 holes, par 72, 6,314 yards.



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