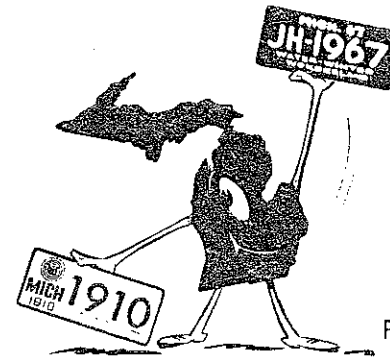


MICHIGAN LICENSE PLATE COLOR COMBINATIONS

1906 to 1909 — Metal disc placed on dash board — leather "plate" with house numerals

1910	—	White background with black numerals and seal (first plate)		
1911	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1912	—	Orange " " black " " " "		
1913	—	Green " " white " " " "		
1914	—	White " " red " " " "		
1915	—	Dark blue " " light blue " " " "		
1916	—	Yellow " " black " " " "		
1917	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1918	—	Green " " white " " " "		
1919	—	Brown " " white " " " "		
1920	—	Orange " " black " " " "		
1921	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1922	—	Red " " yellow " " " "		
1923	—	Green " " white " " " "		
1924	—	Yellow " " black " " " "		
1925	—	Light gray " " black " " " "		
1926	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1927	—	Orange " " black " " " "		
1928	—	Green " " buff " " " "		
1929	—	Black " " yellow " " " "		
1930	—	Orange " " black " " " "		
1931	—	Black " " red " " " "		
1932	—	Dark blue " " white " " " "		
1933	—	White " " black " " " "		
1934	—	Yellow " " black " " " "		
1935	—	Dark blue " " yellow " " " "		
1936	—	Light gray " " black " " " "		
1937	—	Black " " yellow " " " "		
1938	—	Light green " " black " " " "		
1939	—	Buff " " black " " " "		
1940	—	Silver " " black " " " "		
1941	—	Maroon " " white " " " "		
1942	—	Dark green " " white " " " "		
1943	—	White " " green " " (tabs)		
1944	—	Maroon " " white " " (one plate)		
1945	—	Silver " " black " " " "		
1946	—	Dark green " " white " " " "		
1947	—	Maize " " black " " " "		
1948	—	Silver " " black " " " "		
1949	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1950	—	Silver " " black " " " "		
1951	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1952	—	Silver " " black " " " "		
1953	—	Black " " white " " " "		
1954	—	Blue " " maize " " " "		
1955	—	Dark green " " white " " " "		
1956	—	White " " dark green " " " "		
1957	—	Maroon " " white " " " "		
1958	—	Light gray " " black " " " "		
1959	—	Green " " yellow " " " "		
1960	—	Yellow " " green " " (tabs)		
1961	—	Silver " " black " " " "		
1962	—	White " " green " " " "		
1963	—	Green " " white " " (tabs)		
1964	—	Olive green " " gold " " " "		
1965	—	Blue " " yellow " " (two plates)		
1966	—	Beige (tan) " " blue " " " "		
1967	—	Blue " " yellow " " " "		

150th Anniv. U of M



The Story of Michigan License Plates

Published by the Michigan Department of State
... James M. Hare, Secretary of State

Inmates in Jackson Prison operate a gigantic "numbers game" right under noses of state authorities . . . but nobody seems too upset. As a matter of fact, this "numbers game" is run by the state.

The numbers are those stamped on the 4½-million sets of Michigan license plates, most of which go on sale November 1 each year. This year, for the first time in history, commercial and trailer plates were available to the public on October 1.

Michigan license plates have been produced at the Prison since 1918.

License plates are a profitable venture for the state. Revenue from the sale of plates now grosses about \$85-million a year. This revenue is used by the state to build and maintain highways and roads.

Secretary of State James M. Hare, who determines colors then orders and sells plates through more than 250 local branch offices and cooperating AAA offices, said there was no doubt that Michigan's growing "army" of vehicle owners want "full-size" plates instead of tabs.

Reflecting the attitude of the state's drivers, Hare said: "Michigan motorists want plates every year. We save money by tabbing, but since the state is now quite solvent, I am hopeful the Legislature will continue to appropriate sufficient funds to provide them."

Many persons take license plates for granted. Few really know that motor vehicle registration in Michigan dates back more than 60 years to 1906. License plates were first issued by the state in 1910 . . . more than a half-century ago.

Between 1906 and 1909, a round, lightweight metal, dashboard disc was issued in Michigan. This was a little larger than a silver dollar. Many persons took the disc numbers and had them mounted on a stout piece of leather which was used on the outside of the car as a license plate.

Licenses were started in New York state where the first registration began in 1905. There were less than 20,000 cars in the entire country.

Cost of a set of plates in 1910 was \$2.00. Today, plate fee revenues in all 50 states run to about \$2-billion every year.

Of the 4½-million sets of plates issued in Michigan yearly, nearly 3½-million are for passenger cars. Weigh this against the 170,000 issued in 1916 when Michigan first began keeping records, and the fabulous growth of the automobile industry and the "unrequited love affair" between man and car can be understood.

Plate-making in Jackson Prison is a nine-month operation. About 180 prisoners engage in the work . . . many of these men long-termers.

More than 2,500 tons of 28-gauge galvanized steel coil are used in making Michigan plates. Galvanized steel was used for the first time in Michigan in 1965 to make the plates tougher and more resistant to Michigan's harsh winters.

In numbering, Michigan still uses the double-letter, four-numeral system starting with "0001." This combination, said Mr. Hare, will be used "until we run out of combinations. Then we'll have to adopt a three-letter, three-numeral system similar to that which some of the larger states have adopted."

License plates are not only excellent money-makers, but they are often used to extol the virtues of a particular state. This is done by the use of slogans; for example, Florida calls itself "The Sunshine State"; Nebraska uses "Beef State"; Arkansas, "Land of Opportunity"; Louisiana, "Sportsman's Paradise"; New Mexico, "Land of Enchantment." Wisconsin appropriately calls itself "America's Dairyland."

Michigan might well be the only state to have two slogans.

On commercial and trailer plates, Michigan is using a new slogan, "Great Lake State." On the vast majority of plates . . . passengers and motorcycles . . . there continues the slogan of past years, "Water-Winter Wonderland."

Asked why it was changed and the origination of the new slogan, Secretary Hare explains it this way:

"This is an origination of the tourist industry which is using the slogan on much of its material. Actually, the new slogan is a rather intriguing one. First of all, it draws attention because many persons may think that 'Great Lake State' should really be 'Great Lakes State.' " Michigan has an abundance of inland lakes which serve as great recreation areas.

Hare said that the current plan is that all Michigan plates will bear the new slogan next year.

Michigan's rates for license plates are low.

Formula based on 35¢ a hundredweight is the same one used back in the mid-1930's. Average cost for passenger plates is about \$12.

What are license plates made of? Here in Michigan, of course, it's steel. Some states use aluminum, but this lightweight metal is very expensive; most states which use it do so because they use tabs over an extended period of years, some for as long as 10-year cycles.

From 1910 through 1914, cast iron was porcelainized, making the plates extremely rigid and durable. After that, it was cold rolled steel, bought in huge sheets and stamped out.

Some states have experimented with other materials. Illinois tried a soy bean derivative during World War II. It was a failure, because it seems that cows liked the plates too well . . . they ate them.

Size of plates has varied over the years. In recent years, plate sizes have been standardized throughout the country.

Colors change each year. The 1967 colors of yellow on blue have an interesting story behind them.

Mr. Hare tells the story: "The University of Michigan observes its 150th anniversary in 1967. I thought it would be an excellent way to honor this great institution by using the university's famed yellow-and-blue color scheme on 1965 plates. At that time, plates were pegged for two additional years of tabbing so that the 1965 plates would be used in 1967.

"But later on, the Legislature decided to appropriate funds for annual plates, and I decided that it would be only right to honor the University of Michigan in 1967, its actual sesquicentennial year."

MICHIGAN STATE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

1905 UNDATED Seal (Dashboard Disc) with vertical mounting holes issued by State was displayed on the vehicle (usually on the dashboard) a homemade license plate of leather (most common), or steel, aluminum, rubber, cardboard, wood, etc. hung on the rear of the motor vehicle - one plate required. 1907 undated disc issued until June 28, 1907. The 1905 disc (numbers 1 thru 3283) expired in 2 years from date of issue, the 1906 disc (numbers 3284 thru 4778) expired in 1 year and 6 months from date of issue, and the 1907 disc (numbered from 4779 to approximately 5650) expired in 1 year from date of issue.

1907 DATED Seal (Dashboard Disc) with horizontal mounting holes was issued by the State and displayed on the vehicle. Two (2) homemade license plates similiar to 1905, 1906 & 1907 were required after June 28, 1907 (1 front & 1 rear). Each disc expired in 1 year.

STATE ISSUED LICENSE PLATES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Numbers-Letters</u>	
1910	- White	Black	1910 thru 1914 are steel plates with a porcelain-like finish that is glazed on. The State Seal is Black on White except the 1912 plate where the Seal is Black on the base color Orange.
1911	- Black	White	
1912	- Orange	Black	
1913	- Lt. Green	White	
1914	- White	Red	
1915	- Dk. Blue	White	1915 thru 1919 are stamped metal plates with an aluminum State Seal riveted to each plate.
1916	- Off-White	Navy Blue	
1917	- Black	White	
1918	- Olive Green	White	
1919	- Choc. Brown	White	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Numbers-Letters</u>
1920	- Orange	Black
1921	- Black	White
1922	- Red	White
1923	- Lt. Green	White
1924	- Yellow	Black
1925	- Lt. Gray	Black
1926	- Black	White
1927	- Lt. Orange	Black
1928	- Med. Green	White
1929	- Black	Yellow
1930	- Lt. Orange	Black
1931	- Black	Red
1932	- Navy Blue	White
1933	- Off-White	Black
1934	- Yellow	Black
1935	- Dk. Navy Blue	Yellow

<u>Year</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Numbers-Letters</u>
1936	- Very Lt. Purple	Black
1937	- Dk. Navy Blue	Yellow
1938	- Lt. Green	Black
1939	- Cream	Black
1940	- Dull Silver	Black
1941	- Maroon	White
1942	- Dk. Green	White
1943	- Cream	Lt. Green - Metal Tabs
1944	- Maroon	White
1945	- Dull Silver	Black
1946	- Dk. Green	White
1947	- Lt. Orange	Black
1948	- Dull Silver	Black
1949	- Black	White
1950	- Dull Silver	Black
1951	- Black	White
1952	- Dull Silver	Black
1953	- Black	White
1954	- Med. Blue	Yellow
1955	- Dk. Green	White
1956	- White	Dk. Green
1957	- Magenta	White
1958	- Lt. Gray	Black
1959	- Med. Green	Yellow
1960	- Yellow	Med. Green - Metal Tabs
1961	- Dull Silver	Black - Metal Tabs
1962	- White	Med. Green
1963	- Med. Green	White - Metal Tabs
1964	- Dk. Olive	Yellow - Metal Tabs
1965	- Med. Blue	Yellow
1966	- Buff	Dk. Blue
1967	- Med. Blue	Yellow
1968	- Med. Green	Yellow
1969	- Wine Red	White
1970	- Lt. Gold	White
1971	- Wine Red	White
1972	- Yellow	Black - Sticker
1973	- Dk. Blue	White
1974	- White	Blue - Sticker
1975	- White	Red - Sticker
1976	- Red & Blue	White
1984	- Blue & White	White

The metal corner tabs and stickers are attached to the license plate of the prior year. 1905, 1906 & early 1907 were single plate years, two plates were required for the years late 1907 thru 1943. 1944 thru 1956 were single plate years and since 1957 two license plates have been required.