



Donations & Loans to the Gilmore Car Museum Have an Impact on the Future of History

The Gilmore Car Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. As a museum, we rely solely on the generosity of donors and lenders who provide vehicles, library/archive items, or donate funds toward our operations, education, and collection maintenance. To submit any artifact or vehicle to be considered for a loan or donation to the Gilmore Car Museum, we ask that you complete and return the attached application to the Collections Office along with current, detailed photographs of the object(s) to be reviewed by the Museum's Collections Review Committee.

What is the Collections Review Committee?

To maintain the integrity of our collections, the Gilmore Car Museum has a Collections Review Committee that meets once each month to review all donation and loan offers. The Committee consists of dedicated people who carefully review each proposed item and ask the following questions:

- How does the item fit the museum's mission?
- What is the current or future exhibit potential?
- Does the donated item have any unique or rare features?
- What story does it tell?

After the Committee's review meeting, scheduled for the last Monday of each month, the Registrar will contact the owner regarding their offer and what steps are to be taken next.

Our Mission & History

The Mission of the Gilmore Car Museum is to tell the history of America through the automobile. We foster experiences which connect people with the history, heritage, and social impact of the automobile through collecting, preserving, and interpreting its story.

The Gilmore Car Museum began in the early 1960s when Donald S. Gilmore began collecting vintage automobiles. To accommodate his collection, he acquired 90 acres of land in southwestern Michigan in a small town known as Hickory Corners. It was his wife Genevieve who had the idea of turning the collection into a museum, providing future generations access to Donald's one-of-a-kind collection. They established a non-profit foundation and opened the museum to the public for the first time on Sunday, July 31, 1966.

Today, the Gilmore Car Museum is North America's largest auto museum with nearly 400 vehicles on display and over 189,000 square feet of exhibit space. The Museum's 90-acre Historic Campus features numerous vintage structures including a restored and fully-functioning 1941 Silk City Diner, a recreated 1930s Shell Station, six on-site Partner Museums, and much more.