

Detroit Historical Society

1935 Stout *Scarab*

Designed by innovator William B. Stout, the *Scarab* was decades ahead of its time. With experience as an aircraft designer, Stout built his automobile around a lightweight steel frame. A long wheel base and rear-engine, rear-wheel drive configuration allowed for a roomy interior reminiscent of minivans developed a half-century later.

Stout's knowledge of aerodynamics and artistic eye resulted in a highly stylized automobile. The art deco influences set this car apart from anything else on the road at that time. Following World War II, a fiberglass-bodied *Scarab* was built – the first such car in the world.

Specifications:

- Ford Flat-headed V-8 engine
- Transmission: 3-speed manual, floor shift
- Brakes: Four-wheel, hydraulically operated cast-iron drums
- Horsepower: 95
- Top speed 80 m.p.h.
- Acceleration: 0-60 m.p.h. in 15 seconds
- Weight: 3,300 lbs.
- Length, overall: 195.5 inches; wheelbase: 137 inches
- Body style: Two-door, 6-passenger, rear-engine, rear-wheel-drive sedan
- Body construction: all steel
- Price: \$5,190 in 1935 (about \$87,000 today)
- Passenger amenities: filtered air, ambient lighting, thermostat-controlled heating, power door locks
- Of nine built, five *Scarabs* are known to exist today
- Was owned by Philip K. Wrigley, an American businessman and investor in Stout's car company

The *Scarab* may be viewed at:

Detroit Historical Museum
5401 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

Museum hours:

Tues – Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission is FREE | visit detroithistorical.org for more information about the museum.