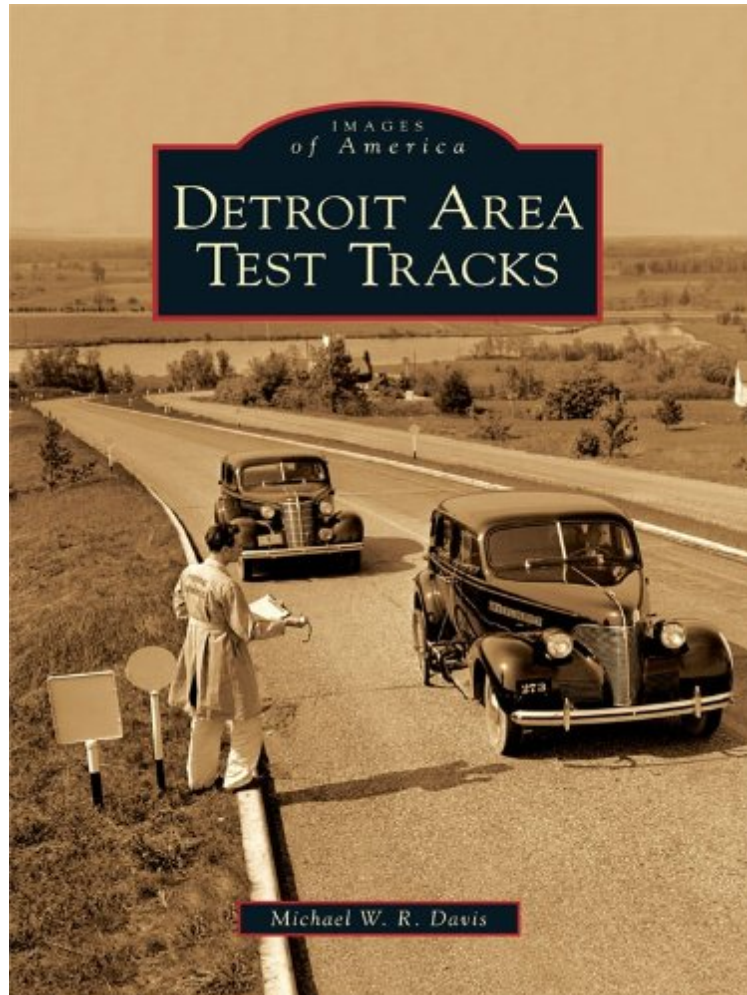


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## Detroit Area Test Tracks (Images of America)

*Michael W. R. Davis*

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**Michael W. R. Davis : Detroit Area Test Tracks (Images of America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Detroit Area Test Tracks (Images of America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book for auto industry lovers By Michwake I bought this for my boyfriend who works for Chrysler. He loves everything about cars. He was very excited and didn't know this book even existed. He has seen the ones on the history of Detroit or other cities but not the cars. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A pictorial history of the creation of America's first automotive proving grounds. By Ken Zino The move from street testing to dedicated facilities for automobiles took place in the early decades of the last century. Because of what could be the first recall in the industry - copper cooled Chevrolets without radiators in 1923 - General Motors established its Milford, Michigan, proving grounds in 1924 and set about to standardize the testing of vehicles under controlled conditions, work that is still done there. Packard followed in 1927, as did Studebaker. It took Ford Motor a decade more to catch up with what is now standard practice. As part of what's called the "Images of

America" series of books from Arcadia Publishing, TheDetroitBureau senior editor Mike Davis has culled images from many sources, predominately the National Automotive Historical Collection (NAHC) at the Detroit Public library, and come up with Detroit Area Test Tracks. This 128-page pictorial history of engineering laboratories -- commonly called test tracks -- has just gone on sale. It is a quick, easy read, and the photos are vivid reminders of the integral role that the automobile and automobility has played in American life. It's also a modest celebration of the can-do pioneering engineering spirit that made the United States the "Arsenal of Democracy" during WW2 (another Davis book) and the industrial power it still is, albeit a waning one, today. Not only were new methods in road construction required for the test tracks; also created were the tests themselves, their instrumentation, data recording methods and analytical techniques. Results were shared between companies at meetings of the nascent Society of Automotive Engineers, which played a key role in developing badly needed engineering standards. More details and discussion at the .com edition of AutoInformed.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read for detroit area industry buffs By Adrian In Florida Very interesting read. A lot of history on Chelsea, Milford and Deaborn. A few lesser known tracks missing (DANA track in Ottawa Lake)

The catastrophic failure of a new but unproven copper-cooled Chevrolet in 1923 led the General Motors Corporation to buy back the 100 cars it had sold to the public and recall another 400 in company and dealer hands. As a result, in 1924 General Motors started building the industry's first scientific proving ground to test new vehicle designs before they were released for production and sale. Before this, all automakers tested new cars haphazardly on public roads and within limited engineering laboratories. Better known by the public as test tracks, the proving grounds became a source of curiosity for decades about the secrets they might hold. Detroit Area Test Tracks goes behind the test track walls to show how the facilities evolved and what typically takes place inside.