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Ransom Eli Olds

In Lansing, on August 21, 1897, Ransom E. Olds (1864-1950) founded the Olds Motor Vehicle Company, the precursor to Oldsmobile. He produced four vehicles that year. In 1899 Olds relocated to Detroit, opening the Olds Motor Works on West Jefferson Avenue near the MacArthur Bridge. In 1901 he built 425 gasoline-powered Curved Dash Oldsmobile Runabouts, driving them on Belle Isle prior to sale. Mounds of dirt excavated during canal construction on the island provided perfect "hills" for drivers who tested the mettle of early automobiles. Runabouts were the first cars to carry the Oldsmobile name.

Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 1997 **Erected Date:** 1997

Marker Location

Address: Belle Isle

City: Detroit

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Wayne

Township:

Lat: 42.33697300 / **Long:** -82.99429500

Web URL:

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