Beginning in 1959, the Cuban government outlawed private ownership of cars. Only recently, 2011, did it restore private ownership for cars made after 1959. Due to the inability of the people to get new cars, they had to maintain these cars from the 1950s.

These cars became masterpieces of ingenuity. The owners were creative with how they maintained their cars and where they got the parts. Both of the gentlemen I interviewed stated that there cars had new engines put in them recently. One of them being a soviet era 4 cylinder gas engine, and the other being a V6 Diesel engine from a tractor.

When speaking with the owners/drivers, you can tell they take great pride in their vehicles. A man who drove a 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air said his dream car would be a Ford Fair liner and that he wouldn't trade it for a brand new Ferrari.

Most of the vintage cars found in Havana are used as Taxis by the owners to secure additional income for themselves and their families. This is one of the only ways they can afford to maintain these cars to the standard that they do. While most are in decent shape, there are some that show their age worse than others.