Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor

Anchor Site: The Nash House

Site-specific Sampling Inventory, Assessment and Recommendations

June 28, 2024

Executive Summary

Primarily located in the east side of Buffalo, the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor is a historic neighborhood that serves as the focal point for learning about Buffalo's rich African American history and culture. The Heritage area encompasses locations across Buffalo, with a concentrated portion along Michigan Avenue. The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor (MSAAHC) includes the following Black heritage institutions: the **Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission** (Corridor) and four Anchor Sites: the **Michigan Street Baptist Church** (owned by the Buffalo Niagara Freedom Station Coalition), **The Nash House Museum** (owned by the Michigan Street Preservation Corporation), the **Historic Colored Musicians Club and Jazz Museum**, and **WUFO Black Radio History Collective**.

This project evaluated, recorded, and researched the collections, stories, and experiences embodied in the Heritage Corridor and its four Anchor Sites, in order to create a plan to properly care for and interpret existing collections and expand access to content Corridor-wide. The project builds the capacity for these five Buffalo, New York African American institutions to develop and expand public programs and exhibitions. The outcome of this project is documented in the following three reports:

MSAAHC: Thematic Development Report

The Proun Team began the project by meeting with the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission and Anchor Site members. The meeting participants reviewed and discussed project goals, existing and desired audience groups, school group programs, and school curriculums. Additionally, a brainstorming session was held to identify key stories, themes, and aspirations for the four Anchor Sites. Three additional sessions with the Commission and Anchor Site members were held to allow for feedback during the development of the Report. The outcome of these discussions is the Thematic Development Report which identifies three interpretive themes relevant to each Anchor Site's stories as well as to the Corridor:

- **Black Agency** speaks to the free will, collective and individual power, and independent ownership of the land and structures along the Corridor.
- **Black Mobility** represents the movement of African Americans to, from, and within the Corridor.
- **Black Messaging** acknowledges the dissemination of ideas, thoughts, and ways of being of the Corridor's inhabitants.

These themes are to be used as a meta-organizing approach in the development and interpretation of the Corridor-wide experience. The Thematic Development Report also details stories unique to each site that fit within the interpretive themes. These stories are not all encompassing but serve as a solid foundation that allows the Corridor and Sites to develop interpretive information for its programs and exhibits, now and into the future.

MSAAHC: Anchor-Specific Inventory Sampling & Assessment Reports

An object sampling inventory was conducted for each Anchor Site's collection. A sampling inventory details artifacts by type, condition, and location within the institution. Each Anchor Site's Sampling Inventory & Assessment Report is based on their unique collection and provides best practices information for:

- Object display techniques
- Conditions assessment considerations
- Methods for implementing proper storage, handling, climate control, and appropriate materials and supplies to prevent deterioration.

The intent of the report is to aid each Anchor Site in making informed decisions about their entire inventory based on the characteristics and conditions of the sampled items.

MSAAHC: Collections Management Manual

The Collection Management Manual details best practices for the development and management of an institution's collection, including documentation, conservation and care, accessioning and deaccessioning, related staff training, and resources for successful implementation and ongoing preservation. Each institution should prepare a unique collection policy for their site informed by their institution's vision, mission and goals. The development of the policy should include key members of the institution's board and staff. The intent of this Collection Management Manual is to serve as a long-term resource for institutions in the on-going care and preservation of their collections.

To conclude, this scope of work builds on prior development by the Corridor and the four Anchor Sites, including the MSAAHC Strategic Plan, Anchor sites' collections lists and databases, and the Michigan Street Historic Structure Report, among other research and planning documents and resources. The intent of this project's reports is to provide the Corridor and Anchor Sites with resources that can be implemented overtime to both manage and maintain collections, and provide site-specific stories related to the Corridor-wide interpretive themes.

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Collection Sampling Inventory and Assessment

Site-specific Sampling Inventory, Assessment and Recommendations

An object sampling inventory was conducted in November 2023 of this site's objects. The sampling inventory details artifacts by type, condition, and location within the institution. The Sampling Inventory & Assessment addresses the RFP task of providing information on best practices for:

- object display techniques
- conditions assessment considerations
- methods for implementing proper storage, handling, climate control, and appropriate materials and supplies to prevent deterioration.

The intent of the report is to aid the anchor site in making informed decisions about the entire inventory based on the characteristics and conditions of the sampled items.

Collection Sampling Inventory and Assessment by Area within Anchor Site

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Attic**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Shoes Hats Dresses Purse	Need to be placed in archival boxes. Need cleaning.
Books	Cookbooks Theological books Instruction manuals	Need to be placed in archival boxes.
Ceramic	Pitcher Stoneware bowls	Need to be wrapped in archival paper and put in archival boxes
Metal/Iron	Skillets	Need to be placed in archival boxes
Electronic	Record player	
Miscellaneous	Woven baskets Steamer Trunks	Need to be placed in climate controlled storage
Ephemera	Sewing patterns	Need to be placed in archival boxes
Costume Jewelry	Necklace and earing sets	
Furniture	Metal students' desk Wood chairs Mirror Metal file cabinet	Need to be placed in climate controlled storage
Storage location concerns: Most items are contained in plastic bags or stored in cardboard boxes wrapped in paper. Attic does not have the proper climate control to adequately store and preserve these items. Items are subject to excessive heat in the summer and excessive cold in the winter. Empty boxes need to be removed and items moved to a climate-controlled storage facility. Items should be housed in the proper storage containers.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Orientation Room**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Books	Through Forest Lawn History of Colored Race in America	
Metal/Iron	Tools Metal letter opener	
Miscellaneous	Metal airplane toy Wooden signage Toy wagon	
Ephemera	Mrs. Nash Funeral program Photographs	
Furniture	Wood folding chairs Wood highchair	
Storage location concerns: The tools are able to be picked up from the display. Place a plastic cover to prevent handling. Store in airtight display cases with drawers.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Storage Room**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Books	View of Grahamstown from Photographs of J.S. Willcox Grahamstown South Africa Black Americans in Congress 1870-1976	
Photographs	Five binders with photographs.	
Ephemera	Loose paper labeled Mrs. Nash	
Framed Works on Paper	National Baptist Convention Leaders 1902 Holiday Bazar Flier	
Digitized inventory on CD		
Storage location concerns: Many of the books from the collection are stored in storage. The storage containers are cardboard boxes. Sleeves that hold the photographs should be archival. Notes that some ephemera is in archival boxes.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Top of back staircase**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Leather gloves	
Books	Flowers of the world	
Metal/Iron	Tools, Buckets	
Appliance	Washing machine	
Miscellaneous	Woven basket cart Wooden bucket	
Textile	Leather gloves	
Storage location concerns: none noted		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Bathroom**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Floor rugs	
Metal	Manicure scissors	
Glass	bottles	
Furniture	Rattan drawers	Need cleaning
Storage location concerns: Damage to the ceiling pointing to a water leak. If not address could damage items on display.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Kitchen**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Clothing, Floor rugs	
Metal	Silver plate flatware Tin gelatin mold	
Glass	Drinking glasses	
Ceramic	Dishes	
Furniture	Wooden chairs Wood drop leaf table	
Appliance	Cast iron stove, Toaster, Metal and wood hand mixer	
Storage location concerns: This area has a lot of items on display. There are no areas sectioned off. The potential for breakage and damage is high. May want to put fewer items out for display and create barriers to direct contact with the objects on display (small display cases). Damage to the ceiling pointing to a water leak. If not address could damage items on display.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Sewing Nook**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Clothing, Floor rugs	Need cleaning
Ephemera	Paper sewing patterns	
Book	Costume design	Water damage
Furniture	Wooden ironing board Wooden chair	
Appliance	Cast Iron sewing machine	
Storage location concerns: There is a leak in the ceiling which has already damage some paper materials in this space.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Sewing Nook**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Hat Gloves Quilt blanket Bedspread Robe Needle point	Fading from sun exposure Need cleaning
Book		
Jewelry	Costume, signed Earrings Necklace Bracelet	
Metal	Cast iron door stop	
Glass	Ruby-stained glass	
Ceramic	Roseville vase	
Furniture	Chest of wooden drawers Bed Chair	
Framed prints		
Photographs		
Miscellaneous	Brief case Hand mirror Bakelite	
Storage location concerns: There is a leak in the ceiling which could cause damage to objects in the space.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Son's Bedroom**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Bed blanket Leather baby shoe Football cleats	
Books	Six-man football	
Ephemera	Duke Ellington poster	
Scientific Instruments	Cast iron doorstop Gilbert chemistry set	
Furniture	Wood chest of drawers Chair Metal bed	Taped
Instruments	Clarinet Drum set	Damage to top of one drum
Photographs	Unframed	
Miscellaneous	Camera Smoking pipe Clarinet instrument	
Storage location concerns: There is a leak in the ceiling which has already damage some paper materials in this space.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Sitting room**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Large floor rug	Fringe worn from rug edge
Books	Personal Hygiene Applied	
Ephemera	Phone book Letters	Pages crumbling
Glass	Carnival glass bowl	
Ceramic	Pair of violines Asian figure	
Furniture	Wall mirror Tube radio Victrola Upholstered settee	
Artwork	Framed lithograph prints Oil on canvas painting	
Instruments	Upright piano Small lap harp	
Metal	Sterling silver cup with elephant handle	Should be put in a more secure place
Photographs	Loose Framed	
Miscellaneous	Reading glasses 78 vinyl records	
Storage location concerns: There is a leak in the ceiling which has already damage some paper materials in this space.		

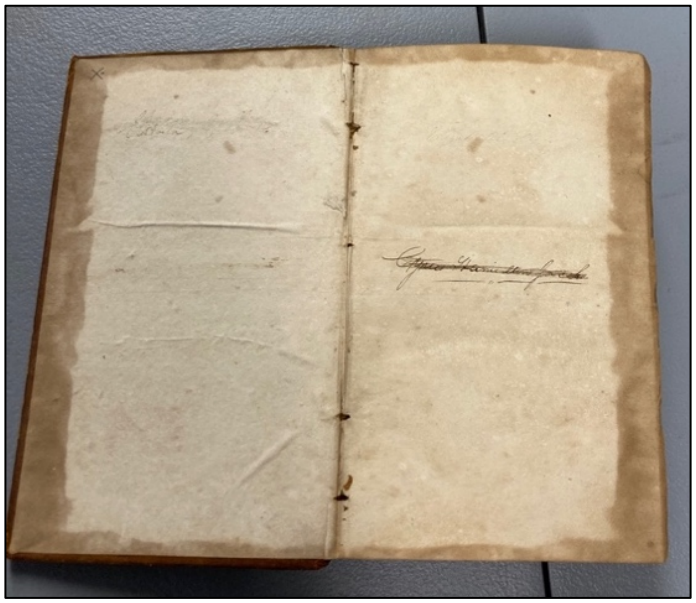
The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Office**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Clothes Rug runner	Need cleaning
Books/Magazines	New York Baptist Annual	
Ceramic	Roseville vase	
Art	Framed color print	
Furniture	Drop front desk Curio cabinet Office desk Bookcase Upholstered side chair	
Photographs	Unframed	
Miscellaneous	Typewriter Framed map of Buffalo 1887 Radio Emboss seal Reading Glasses	
Storage location concerns: Damage to the ceiling indicating a leak.		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Mr. Nash's Bedroom**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Minster robe Bed blanket	Need cleaning
Books	Six-man football	
Art	Framed print of Jesus	
Furniture	Portable toilet Wood carved side table Bed	 Taped
Instruments	Clarinet Drum set	 Damage to top of one drum
Photographs	Unframed	
Miscellaneous	Hair brush Pocket watch	 No glass covering the face
Storage location concerns: none noted		

The Nash House Sampling Inventory **Location: Top of front staircase**		
Object Type	**Examples**	**Condition Issues (if noted)**
Textile	Top hat Derby hat	Interior of top hat pulling away, needs restoration
Furniture	Wooden coat rack Wood hall tree	
Miscellaneous	Pewter bowl Skeleton keys	
Art	Framed painting of a parrot on paper	Should be reframed to ensure not stuck to glass
Storage location concerns: none noted		

Examples of Select Object Types with Condition Issues

Books



Book with Foxing

Book with damaged spines

Books and other items with Mold and mildew.

Foxing: Foxing refers to the development of brown or reddish-brown spots on the pages of a book. It is often caused by mold, mildew, or exposure to high humidity.

Mold and Mildew: Damp and humid conditions can lead to the growth of mold and mildew, which can cause staining, discoloration, and deterioration of paper and bindings.

Spine Damage: The spine of a book is particularly vulnerable to damage. Issues such as cracked spines, detached boards, or missing parts can occur due to age, improper handling, or poor binding.

Metals

Cast Iron showing signs of rust.

Tin showing signs of rust and corrosion.

Rust: Rust is a common problem with old cast iron. Exposure to moisture, air, and acidic substances can cause the iron to oxidize, leading to rust formation. Regular seasoning and proper storage help prevent and mitigate rust.

Corrosion: Tin is prone to corrosion, especially in the presence of moisture. Corrosion can manifest as rust or dark spots on the surface of the mold, affecting both its appearance and structural integrity.

Rattan

Rattan vanity

Regular Cleaning: Dust and clean rattan objects regularly using a soft brush or vacuum cleaner to prevent the accumulation of dirt.

Textile


Top Hat with hole from an insect.

Insect Infestation: Insects, such as moths and carpet beetles, can damage textiles by feeding on natural fibers. Larvae can leave behind holes and silk webbing, leading to irreversible damage.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Ceramic Plates

Ceramic Plates: Display Considerations

Plate Hangers:

Plate hangers are a simple and effective way to display vintage plates on the wall. These devices have spring-loaded arms that grip the edges of the plate, allowing it to hang securely. Plate hangers are available in various sizes to accommodate different plate diameters.

Plate Racks:

Plate racks or plate stands are designed to hold and display plates on shelves or tabletops. They come in various styles, including single plate stands or tiered racks that can hold multiple plates. Choose a rack that complements the style of your vintage plates.

Floating Shelves:

Install floating shelves on your walls to create a visually appealing display for your vintage ceramic plates. Arrange the plates in an artistic or symmetrical pattern on the shelves. Floating shelves allow you to change the display easily and add other decorative elements.

Plate Rails:

Plate rails, also known as plate grooves, are wooden rails with built-in grooves designed to hold plates securely. Mount these rails on the wall and slide the plates into the grooves. This creates a classic and organized display.

Plate Stands with Easels:

Plate stands with easels are versatile and can be used on tabletops, shelves, or mantels. The easel supports the plate at an angle, making it visible from various angles. Choose stands that complement the style and color of your vintage plates.

Plate Frames:

Plate frames are specially designed to frame and showcase plates. They have a decorative border and a clear front, allowing you to display the plate while protecting it. Hang framed plates on the wall or place them on a shelf.

Display Cabinets:

Protect your vintage ceramic plates from dust and handling by using a display cabinet with glass doors. Cabinets can be wall-mounted or freestanding, providing a secure and enclosed space for your collection.

Seasonal Displays:

Rotate your vintage ceramic plate displays based on seasons or themes. For example, showcase festive plates during holidays or plates with floral designs in the spring.

Ceramics: Condition Considerations

Cracks and Breaks:

Ceramic plates are susceptible to cracking and breaking, especially if subjected to physical impact or extreme temperature changes. Cracks can compromise the structural integrity and aesthetic value of the plate.

Chips and Flakes:

Chips and flakes can occur along the edges or surfaces of ceramic plates, often as a result of accidental impacts or mishandling. These issues can affect the plate's appearance and may lead to further damage.

Glaze Deterioration:

The glaze on ceramic plates can deteriorate over time due to factors such as exposure to acidic foods, aggressive cleaning agents, or environmental conditions. Deteriorating glaze may result in discoloration or a dull appearance.

Crazing:

Crazing refers to the development of fine cracks in the glaze of a ceramic plate. It can occur due to age, thermal shock, or exposure to extreme temperature changes. Crazing may affect the aesthetics and can potentially lead to more serious issues.

Staining:

Staining can occur when ceramic plates come into contact with pigmented foods or liquids that may permeate the porous surface of unglazed ceramics. Stains can be challenging to remove and affect the plate's appearance.

Fading of Decoration:

Decorative elements on ceramic plates, such as painted or glazed designs, may fade over time, especially if the plate is exposed to direct sunlight or harsh cleaning methods.

Loss of Gilding:

Plates with gilded or metallic details may experience loss of gilding over time due to handling, cleaning, or exposure to acidic substances. This can impact the original aesthetics of the plate.

Warpage:

Ceramic plates may warp or deform due to uneven firing during the manufacturing process or exposure to extreme heat. Warped plates may not sit flat and can be challenging to display or use.

Pest Infestation:

Insects and rodents can cause damage to ceramic plates by nibbling on the edges or creating nests. Proper storage and regular inspection are essential to prevent pest-related issues.

Environmental Conditions:

Extreme environmental conditions, such as high humidity or rapid fluctuations in temperature, can contribute to the deterioration of ceramic plates. It's crucial to store plates in a stable environment.

Improper Cleaning:

Aggressive cleaning methods, including the use of abrasive brushes or harsh cleaning agents, can scratch or damage the surface of ceramic plates and lead to the loss of glaze or decoration

Inappropriate Storage:

Storing plates in overcrowded or unstable conditions can increase the risk of breakage, chips, and scratches. Improper storage may also expose plates to potential environmental hazards.

Conserving ceramic plates involves preventive measures, proper storage, and careful handling. If plates exhibit signs of damage, it's advisable to consult with a professional conservator for appropriate restoration techniques to ensure their long-term preservation.

Ceramic Plates: Storage and Materials Guidance

Storing old ceramics requires careful consideration to prevent damage, deterioration, or breakage over time. Here are some top ways to store old ceramics:

Clean Before Storage:

Clean the ceramics thoroughly before storing them. Use a soft brush or a clean, lint-free cloth to remove dust and debris. Avoid using harsh cleaning agents, especially on delicate or painted surfaces.

Avoid Stacking Directly:

Avoid stacking ceramics directly on top of each other, especially if they have delicate or textured surfaces. Place a layer of soft, acid-free tissue paper or foam between each item to prevent scratches and abrasions.

Use Acid-Free Tissue Paper:

Wrap each ceramic item individually in acid-free tissue paper. This helps protect the surface from scratches and provides a buffer against potential moisture.

Bubble Wrap or Foam Padding:

For more delicate or fragile ceramics, consider wrapping them in bubble wrap or padding them with foam. This provides additional protection against impact and breakage.

Store in a Cool, Dry Place:

Choose a storage area with stable temperature and humidity levels. Avoid places that are prone to extreme temperature fluctuations or high humidity, as these conditions can contribute to deterioration.

Avoid Sunlight Exposure:

Store ceramics away from direct sunlight, as prolonged exposure can cause fading and damage to painted or glazed surfaces.

Use Appropriate Boxes:

Select sturdy and appropriately sized boxes for storing ceramics. Line the boxes with acid-free tissue paper or bubble wrap and ensure that there is sufficient padding between items to prevent movement during storage.

Label Boxes Clearly:

Clearly label the storage boxes with the contents and any special handling instructions. This makes it easier to locate specific items without having to unwrap everything.

Avoid Overcrowding:

Do not overcrowd storage boxes, as this can increase the risk of breakage and make it challenging to access individual items. Provide enough space to allow for easy retrieval.

Store Flat if Possible:

Store ceramics flat, especially if they are large or have irregular shapes. If stacking is necessary, use appropriate supports to distribute the weight evenly.

Avoid Nesting Fragile Items:

Refrain from nesting fragile or delicate ceramics within each other. Items should have sufficient space and padding to avoid direct contact.

Use Shelving with Adjustable Height:

If storing ceramics on shelves, use shelving with adjustable height to accommodate different sizes of items. Avoid placing heavy items on shelves above delicate ceramics.

Monitor for Pests:

Regularly inspect the storage area for signs of pests, such as insects or rodents. Take preventive measures to protect ceramics from potential infestations.

Consider Climate-Controlled Storage:

If possible, opt for climate-controlled storage facilities, especially for valuable or sensitive ceramics. These facilities can provide a stable environment with controlled temperature and humidity levels.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Costume Jewelry

Costume Jewelry: Display Considerations

Display

Use shadow boxes or frames with a fabric backing to create an organized and visually appealing display. Arrange necklaces, earrings, and brooches on the fabric and secure them in place.

Trays or Dishes:

Place costume jewelry on decorative trays, dishes, or shallow bowls. This method works well for organizing smaller items such as rings, earrings, and brooches.

Jewelry Stands and Trees:

Invest in jewelry stands or trees with multiple branches or hooks. These stands are ideal for displaying necklaces, bracelets, and rings in an organized and easily accessible manner.

Corkboard Display:

Cover a corkboard with fabric or decorative paper and use pins or small hooks to display earrings, brooches, and necklaces. This method allows for easy customization and rearrangement.

Drawer Liners:

Line the drawers of a dresser or vanity with decorative fabric or felt and arrange jewelry in organized sections. This method keeps pieces neatly separated and protected.

Mannequin Display:

Use a decorative mannequin or bust to display statement necklaces, scarves, and larger pieces. This creates a stylish and artistic focal point.

Floating Shelves:

Install floating shelves on a wall and arrange jewelry in decorative containers or trays. This method works well for showcasing a curated collection.

Costume Jewelry: Condition Considerations

Tarnish:

Tarnish is a common issue with costume jewelry, especially if it contains metal components. Tarnish can dull the appearance of metals like brass, copper, or silver, affecting the overall aesthetic.

Discoloration:

Over time, the colors of enamel, faux pearls, or other decorative elements may fade or change due to exposure to light, air, and environmental factors.

Corrosion:

Metal components in vintage costume jewelry, such as clasps, chains, or findings, may corrode over time, especially if exposed to moisture or harsh chemicals.

Loose or Missing Stones:

Glued or prong-set stones may become loose or fall out over time, affecting the overall appearance of the jewelry. This is particularly common in vintage pieces with age-related wear.

Metal Wear and Fading:

The metal plating on some costume jewelry may wear off or fade, revealing the base metal beneath. This can be especially noticeable on high-contact areas like clasps and edges.

Broken or Stretched Links:

Chains, links, or connections may become weakened or stretched, leading to breakage. This is a common issue in necklaces or bracelets with multiple linked components.

Missing or Broken Components:

Parts such as clasps, hinges, or pins may be missing or broken. Missing components can impact the functionality and wearability of the jewelry.

Deterioration of Glue:

Costume jewelry often relies on glue to secure stones or components. Over time, the glue may deteriorate, causing stones to become loose or detached.

Stiffened or Broken Flexible Components:

Flexible components like bead strands or woven elements may become stiff, brittle, or break over time. This is common in vintage pieces with fabric or thread components.

Frayed or Broken Threads:

If a piece incorporates threads or fibers, such as in beaded or woven designs, the threads may fray or break, causing the structure to weaken or unravel.

Elastic Wear:

Vintage pieces with elastic components, such as stretch bracelets, may experience wear and loss of elasticity over time, leading to a loose fit or breakage.

Fading of Plating or Coating:

Gold or silver plating on metal components, as well as coatings on beads or elements, may fade or wear off with prolonged use.

Clasp Malfunctions:

Clasps, particularly those with springs or mechanisms, may become difficult to open or close properly, affecting the functionality of necklaces or bracelets.

Costume Jewelry: Storage and Materials Guidance

Storage:

Clean each piece of costume jewelry before storing it. Use a soft, dry cloth to remove any oils, dirt, or residue. Avoid using abrasive materials or harsh cleaning agents, as they can damage the jewelry.

Separate Pieces:

Store each piece of costume jewelry separately to prevent scratches, tangles, or damage. Use individual pouches, small plastic bags, or compartments to keep pieces separated.

Anti-Tarnish Strips or Sheets:

Include anti-tarnish strips or sheets in the storage containers to absorb moisture and help prevent tarnish. These are especially useful for metal components in costume jewelry.

Avoid Sunlight and Heat:

Store costume jewelry away from direct sunlight and heat, as prolonged exposure can cause fading, discoloration, and deterioration of materials.

Use Jewelry Boxes with Compartments:

Use boxes with compartments or dividers to keep different pieces organized and prevent them from coming into contact with one another. Look for boxes lined with anti-tarnish material.

Avoid Folding or Bending:

For pieces with flexible components, avoid folding or bending them during storage. Lay them flat or hang them to maintain their shape.

Store Earrings Together:

Use small pouches or individua jewelry boxes to store earrings.

Protect Stones and Beads:

For pieces with stones or beads, use padded pouches or wrap them in tissue paper to prevent scratches and damage. Avoid placing heavy items on top of delicate pieces.

Label or Organize by Occasion:

Organize costume jewelry by occasion or style. Label or categorizing storage containers accordingly.

Regularly Inspect and Clean:

Periodically inspect costume jewelry for any signs of damage, loose stones, or tarnish. Clean the pieces as needed and address any issues promptly to prevent further deterioration.

Avoid Humidity and Moisture:

Store costume jewelry in a dry environment to prevent moisture-related issues such as tarnish, corrosion, and mold. Avoid storing in bathrooms or areas with high humidity.

Use Silica Gel Packets:

Place silica gel packets inside storage containers to help control humidity and moisture levels. Silica gel helps prevent tarnish and deterioration caused by environmental factors.

Cabinets:

Place costume jewelry in glass-fronted display cabinets or curio cabinets. This not only protects the jewelry but also allows you to enjoy the visual impact of the entire collection.

T-bar Displays:

Use T-bar displays for showcasing necklaces and bracelets. These can be placed on dressers, vanities, or tabletops for an organized and visually pleasing arrangement.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Glass

Glass: Display Considerations

Glass Cabinets or Display Cases:

Use glass-fronted cabinets or display cases to protect old glass items from dust, dirt, and handling. The transparent panels allow for easy viewing while providing a controlled environment.

Glass Shelves:

Install glass shelves on the wall to create an elegant and transparent display for old glass items. Glass shelves allow light to pass through, enhancing the visibility of the items.

Display Stands:

Utilize individual display stands to highlight specific glass pieces. These stands come in various styles and materials, such as acrylic or wood, and can be chosen to complement the aesthetics of the glass items.

Group by Color or Type:

Arrange old glass items by color or type to create visually cohesive displays. Grouping similar items together enhances the overall aesthetic impact.

Lighting:

Install ambient or accent LED lighting to illuminate the glass display. Proper lighting can enhance the colors and details of old glass items, making them more visually striking.

Rotate Displays:

Rotate your glass displays periodically to prevent prolonged exposure to sunlight or artificial light. This helps reduce the risk of fading and damage over time.

Mirrored Backdrop:

Install a mirrored backdrop behind glass displays. Mirrors can create the illusion of depth, reflect light.

Use Risers:

Elevate certain glass items using display risers or stands. Varying heights add visual interest and allow each item to be seen clearly.

Glass Vitrines:

Consider using glass vitrines or cloches for smaller, delicate glass items. These enclosed displays provide protection while allowing for a close-up view.

Minimalist Displays:

Embrace minimalist displays with a few carefully selected and well-spaced glass items.

Glass: Condition Considerations

Cracks and Breaks:

Glass objects are vulnerable to cracks and breaks, often resulting from physical impact, mishandling, or structural weaknesses. These issues can compromise the integrity and functionality of the glass.

Chips and Flakes:

Chips and flakes can occur along the edges or surfaces of glass objects, especially if they have delicate rims or decorations. Such damage can affect both the aesthetics and safety of the item.

Surface Scratches:

Glass surfaces may develop scratches over time, often caused by abrasive cleaning methods or contact with other hard materials. Fine scratches can affect the clarity and transparency of the glass.

Glass Sickness:

"Glass sickness" refers to a condition where the glass surface becomes cloudy or hazy due to chemical reactions within the glass itself. This can result from the migration of alkali components to the surface.

Crazing:

Crazing occurs when small cracks or fractures appear on the surface of the glass, forming a network of fine lines. It can be caused by thermal stress, chemical reactions, or aging. Crazing can impact both the appearance and structural stability of the glass.

Mineral Deposits:

Mineral deposits may accumulate on the surface of old glass objects, particularly if they have been in contact with hard water. These deposits can create a cloudy or opaque appearance and may be challenging to remove.

Glass Disease:

"Glass disease" refers to the deterioration of glass caused by the leaching of components from the glass matrix. This process can result in the formation of a powdery or crystalline substance on the surface.

Weathering and Erosion:

Outdoor glass objects, such as architectural glass or glass sculptures, can experience weathering and erosion over time due to exposure to the elements. This may include pitting, surface roughening, and loss of clarity.

Inherent Vice:

Some old glass objects may have inherent vice, meaning they possess intrinsic characteristics that make them susceptible to damage or deterioration. For example, glass with a high lead content may be prone to clouding over time.

Loss of Decorative Elements:

Decorative elements, such as painted or applied decorations, may deteriorate or be lost due to wear, cleaning, or exposure to environmental factors. This can affect the aesthetic and historical value of the glass.

Staining and Discoloration:

Stains or discoloration can develop on the glass surface due to exposure to pollutants, smoke, or other environmental contaminants. Stains may alter the original color and appearance of the glass.

Metallic Corrosion:

Glass objects with metal components, such as gilded details or metal mounts, may experience corrosion. Corrosion can result in the deterioration of the metal and may cause stains or damage to the adjacent glass.

Glass: Storage and Materials Guidance

Clean Before Storage:

Thoroughly clean the glass objects before storing them. Use a mild, non-abrasive glass cleaner and a soft cloth to remove dust, fingerprints, and any other residues. Ensure that the glass is completely dry before storage.

Wrap Individually:

Wrap each glass object individually in acid-free tissue paper. This provides a protective layer and helps prevent scratches and abrasions during storage. Avoid using newspaper or colored tissue paper, as the ink or dyes may transfer to the glass.

Use Bubble Wrap or Foam Padding:

For more delicate or fragile glass items, wrap them in bubble wrap or pad them with foam. This extra layer of cushioning provides protection against impact and minimizes the risk of breakage.

Avoid Nesting:

Refrain from nesting glass items directly inside each other, especially if they have painted or decorated surfaces. Place a layer of tissue paper or foam between nested items to prevent contact and potential damage.

Choose Appropriate Boxes:

Select sturdy and appropriately sized boxes for storing glass objects. Line the boxes with acid-free tissue paper or bubble wrap, and ensure that there is sufficient padding between items to prevent movement during storage.

Label Boxes Clearly:

Clearly label each storage box with the contents and any special handling instructions. This makes it easier to locate specific items without having to unwrap everything.

Avoid Overcrowding:

Do not overcrowd storage boxes, as this increases the risk of breakage and makes it challenging to access individual items. Allow for ample space between items to ensure safe storage.

Use Dividers or Inserts:

If storing multiple glass items in one box, consider using dividers or inserts to create compartments for each piece. This helps prevent items from coming into contact and reduces the risk of breakage.

Store Upright if Possible:

If the glass items are tall and sturdy, consider storing them upright to minimize the risk of leaning or pressure on delicate areas. Use dividers or padding to keep items separate.

Climate-Controlled Storage:

If possible, store old glass items in a climate-controlled environment. Maintain stable temperature and humidity levels to prevent issues such as condensation, which can lead to mold and mildew.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Store glass items away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and discoloration. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can also create hot spots, leading to thermal stress on the glass.

Regular Inspection:

Periodically inspect stored glass items for any signs of damage or deterioration. If issues are identified, address them promptly to prevent further damage.

Use Anti-Tarnish Strips:

Consider placing anti-tarnish strips or silica gel packets inside storage boxes to help control moisture levels and prevent tarnishing, especially for glass items with metal components.

Secure Storage Area:

Choose a secure storage area with minimal risk of environmental hazards, such as floods or leaks. Elevate boxes off the floor to protect them from potential water damage.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Books

Books: Display Considerations

Handle books with clean hands or gloves when arranging or dusting. Be mindful of the environment to ensure the long-term preservation of the collection.

Bookshelves:

Use well-constructed, sturdy bookshelves to display your collection. Adjustable shelves allow you to accommodate books of different sizes.

Organize by Theme or Size:

Arrange books on shelves based on a theme, author, genre, or size. This enhances the visual appeal and makes it easier to locate specific books.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Place bookshelves away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and damage to the book covers and pages. Consider having UV filter film on windows and use window coverings to control sunlight exposure.

Support Bookends:

Use decorative or functional bookends to keep books upright and prevent them from leaning. This helps maintain the integrity of the spines and overall appearance.

Use Book Stands:

Display particularly valuable or visually striking books on individual book stands. This allows you to showcase specific volumes while protecting them from potential damage.

Rotate Displays:

Rotate displayed books periodically to prevent prolonged exposure to light and dust. This also provides an opportunity to showcase different books and keeps the collection fresh.

Protective Covers:

Use clear, archival-quality dust jackets or covers to protect valuable books from dust and handling. These covers can be removed easily for reading while keeping the books in good condition.

Showcasing Spine and Cover Art:

Display books with visually appealing spines and cover art facing outwards. This can add aesthetic value to your bookshelves and allow you to appreciate the design of the books.

Display in Glass Cabinets:

To provide extra protection, display books in glass-fronted cabinets. This helps shield them from dust, light, and potential physical contact.

Create Groupings:

Arrange books in visually appealing groupings based on size, color, or theme. This can add a decorative element to your display.

Maintain a Controlled Environment:

Keep the display area at a controlled temperature and humidity level to prevent damage to the books. Avoid extreme fluctuations in these conditions.

Books: Condition Considerations

Foxing:

Foxing refers to the development of brown or reddish-brown spots on the pages of a book. It is often caused by mold, mildew, or exposure to high humidity.

Mold and Mildew:

Damp and humid conditions can lead to the growth of mold and mildew, which can cause staining, discoloration, and deterioration of paper and bindings.

Brittle Pages:

Over time, paper can become brittle due to the breakdown of the cellulose fibers. This makes pages fragile and prone to tearing.

Yellowing or Browning:

Exposure to light, especially sunlight, can cause the paper in books to yellow or brown over time. This is often accelerated by the presence of acids in the paper.

Insect Damage:

Insects such as silverfish, bookworms, and beetles can damage books by feeding on paper, bindings, and dust jackets.

Spine Damage:

The spine of a book is particularly vulnerable to damage. Issues such as cracked spines, detached boards, or missing parts can occur due to age, improper handling, or poor binding.

Dust Jacket Damage:

Dust jackets are often fragile, and their edges can be easily damaged. Tears, creases, and missing portions are common issues.

Water Damage:

Exposure to water, whether through floods, leaks, or spills, can cause significant damage to books. Water can warp pages, stain covers, and promote mold growth.

Ink Fading or Bleeding:

Inks used in older books may fade or bleed over time, affecting the readability of the text.

Loose or Missing Pages:

Improper handling or binding issues can lead to pages becoming loose or falling out. In extreme cases, entire sections of a book may be missing.

Leather Deterioration:

Leather-bound books may experience deterioration, including cracking, peeling, or a loss of suppleness, especially if not properly cared for.

Acidic Paper:

Acidic paper can lead to the degradation of the book over time, causing brittleness and yellowing. This is a common issue in books produced before the widespread use of acid-free paper.

Books: Storage and Materials Guidance

Acid-Free Boxes:

Store books in acid-free boxes to protect them from dust, light, and physical damage. These boxes are made from materials that do not contain acids, preventing acid migration to the books.

Acid-Free Folders and Sleeves:

For individual items or documents within books, use acid-free folders or sleeves. These protect against direct contact with other materials and help prevent yellowing or deterioration.

Acid-Free Book Covers:

Transparent archival book covers made from acid-free materials provide an extra layer of protection for dust jackets and book covers. They shield against dust, light, and handling.

Archival-Quality Bookbinding Cloth:

When repairing or rebinding books, use archival-quality bookbinding cloth. This material is free from harmful acids and ensures durability without compromising the book's integrity.

Acid-Free Paper:

Interleave books with acid-free paper to protect pages from sticking together and to prevent acid migration. Acid-free paper is essential for long-term preservation.

Mylar or Polyester Film:

Use Mylar or polyester film for encapsulation or as protective covers for individual documents or entire books. These materials are stable, clear, and do not release harmful gases.

Cotton Gloves:

Wear clean cotton gloves when handling books to prevent oils and dirt from your hands transferring to the pages. This is especially important when dealing with rare or delicate materials.

Archival-Quality Adhesives:

If repairs are necessary, use archival-quality adhesives that are reversible and do not contain harmful substances. Avoid using regular glues or tapes.

Micro-Chamber Paper:

Micro-chamber paper contains zeolites that absorb pollutants and gases that might contribute to the deterioration of books. It is often used as interleaving material.

Archival-Quality Pens/Pencils:

Label books or write on archival-quality paper with pens or pencils that are free from acids. This helps prevent damage to the book or documents.

Storage in Archival-Quality Bookshelves:

Place books on sturdy, well-constructed bookshelves made from materials that do not emit harmful gases. Avoid shelves made from materials like particleboard that may contain acids.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance
Object Type: Metals

Metal - Tools: Display Considerations

Clean and Restore:

Before displaying your old tools, clean and, if necessary, restore them. Remove rust, dirt, and grime while being careful not to damage the original patina.

Group by Type or Theme:

Organize your tools by type, theme, or function. Grouping similar tools together can create a visually appealing display and make it easier for viewers to appreciate the variations and purposes of each tool.

Shadow Boxes:

Consider using shadow boxes to create small displays for individual tools or a themed collection. This provides protection from dust and allows you to arrange the tools creatively.

Wall-Mounted Displays:

Install wall-mounted shelves, pegboards, or racks to display tools in an organized and visually interesting way. This is particularly effective for showcasing hand tools with distinctive shapes.

Use Proper Lighting:

Illuminate your tool display with proper lighting to highlight the details and craftsmanship. Avoid direct sunlight, as it can cause fading and damage over time.

Label or Provide Information:

Attach labels or small plaques with information about each tool. Include details such as the tool's history, purpose, and unique features. This adds an educational aspect to the display.

Diorama or Workshop Setting:

Create a diorama or set up a display that mimics a workshop setting. Arrange tools as if they were in use, perhaps with a workbench, toolboxes, or other relevant accessories.

Glass Display Cabinets:

Use glass display cabinets to protect tools from dust and handling. Cabinets with adjustable shelves allow you to customize the layout based on the size and shape of the tools.

Rotate Displays:

Rotate your tool displays periodically to keep the exhibit fresh and to prevent prolonged exposure to light and dust.

Use Original Packaging:

If you have tools with original packaging or boxes, consider displaying them in their original state. This adds authenticity and showcases the packaging design of the time.

Create a Theme or Story:

Arrange your tools to tell a story or convey a theme. This could be based on historical periods, specific trades, or the evolution of tools over time.

Interactive Displays:

If appropriate, create interactive displays that allow viewers to handle and interact with certain tools. Ensure proper supervision to prevent damage.

Consider the Environment:

Be mindful of the environment in which you're displaying your tools. Avoid extremes in temperature and humidity that can potentially damage the tools. Remember that proper care and maintenance of your tool collection are crucial to preserving its condition.

Metal - Tools: Condition Considerations

Cleaning and Rust Removal:

Remove dirt, grease, and rust from the tools using appropriate cleaning methods. Use a wire brush, rust remover, or sandpaper to clean metal surfaces. Be gentle to avoid damaging the tool's original finish.

Preserve Original Finishes:

Whenever possible, preserve the original finishes on old tools. Avoid over-polishing or abrasive cleaning methods that could remove patina or historical markings.

Lubrication:

Apply a thin coat of lubricant, such as machine oil or wax, to prevent further rusting and protect metal surfaces. Be sure to wipe off any excess to avoid attracting dirt.

Storage in a Controlled Environment:

Store tools in a cool, dry environment to prevent rust, corrosion, and deterioration. Avoid damp or humid areas, as moisture can lead to rust and promote mold growth.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Keep tools out of direct sunlight to prevent fading of handles, labels, and other components. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can also contribute to the degradation of wooden handles.

Handle with Care:

Handle old tools with clean hands to prevent oils, dirt, and acids from transferring to the metal surfaces. Avoid dropping or mishandling tools to prevent damage.

Protect Wooden Handles:

Treat wooden handles with products like linseed oil or beeswax to nourish the wood and protect it from drying out or cracking. Replace any damaged or broken handles.

Pest Control:

Keep an eye out for pests such as termites or beetles, which can damage wooden components of tools. Implement pest control measures to prevent infestations.

Regular Inspection:

Periodically inspect your tool collection for signs of wear, damage, or rust. Catching issues early allows for timely intervention and prevents further deterioration.

Conservation Documentation:

Document the history and condition of your tools. This information can be valuable for future generations and can assist in the proper care and conservation of the tools.

Avoid Harsh Cleaning Chemicals:

Refrain from using harsh cleaning chemicals that can damage the metal, wood, or other components of the tools. Choose cleaning products specifically designed for tool conservation.

Maintain Sharp Edges:

Sharpen blades and cutting edges regularly to maintain functionality. A well-maintained edge not only improves performance but also reduces the risk of accidents caused by dull tools.

Seek Professional Assistance:

If you have rare or particularly valuable tools, consider consulting a professional conservator for advice on proper conservation techniques and any necessary restoration work.

Metal – Cast Iron: Conservation Considerations

Cleaning:

Wash the cast iron pot with warm water and mild soap. Use a soft brush or sponge to scrub away any food residue or rust. Avoid using harsh detergents or soaking the pot for extended periods, as this can strip away the seasoning and promote rusting. For stubborn food residues, you can use a paste made of coarse salt and water as a gentle abrasive.

Drying:

Thoroughly dry the cast iron pot immediately after washing to prevent rusting. Use a clean towel or paper towel to remove all moisture. If necessary, place the pot on a stove over low heat for a few minutes to ensure complete drying.

Renaissance Wax:

A brand of microcrystalline wax polish that can be used to clean, restore and protect many solid surfaces. It's often used in museum conservation and antique restoration. Commonly used to polish and conserve metal objects, it is also used on gemstones and organic materials such as wood, ivory and tortoiseshell.

Avoid High Heat and Rapid Temperature Changes:

Gradually heat the cast iron pot to avoid thermal shock, which can cause warping or cracking. Avoid exposing the pot to extreme temperature changes. Use low to medium heat settings on the stove to prevent overheating and burning.

Storage:

Store cast iron pots in a dry environment to prevent rust. If stacking pots, place an acid free paper between them to avoid scratching the seasoning.

Avoid Dishwashers:

Do not use dishwashers to clean cast iron pots, as the harsh detergents and high water pressure can strip away the seasoning and promote rusting.

Handle with Care:

Be mindful of dropping or banging the cast iron pot, as this can cause chips in the enamel or affect the seasoning. By following these steps, you can conserve your cast iron pots, ensuring they remain in good condition and provide reliable performance for years to come.

Metal – Cast Iron: Condition Considerations

Rust:

Rust is a common problem with old cast iron. Exposure to moisture, air, and acidic substances can cause the iron to oxidize, leading to rust formation. Regular seasoning and proper storage help prevent and mitigate rust.

Cracks or Breaks:

Cast iron can become brittle over time, especially if subjected to extreme temperature changes. This can result in cracks or even breaks in the material, impacting the integrity of the cookware.

Warped Surface:

Uneven heating or rapid temperature changes can cause cast iron to warp. Warping may affect the flatness of the cooking surface, making it challenging to cook evenly.

Pitting:

Pitting is the formation of small, deep holes in the surface of cast iron, often caused by corrosion or rust. While it may not always affect functionality, it can be visually unappealing.

Worn or Damaged Seasoning:

The seasoning on cast iron can wear off over time due to cleaning with harsh chemicals, excessive scrubbing, or exposure to acidic foods. Worn seasoning can lead to rust and reduced non-stick properties.

Chipping or Flaking Enamel:

If the cast iron has an enamel coating, chips or flakes may develop over time. This can expose the underlying iron to moisture, leading to rust and compromising the pot.

Porous Surface:

Over time, the surface of cast iron can become more porous, making it harder to maintain a consistent seasoning. This can lead to difficulties in cooking and cleaning.

Inconsistent Heating:

Uneven heating may occur due to a warped surface or damage to the cast iron. This can affect the cooking performance and make it challenging to achieve uniform results.

Brittleness:

Cast iron can become brittle with age, especially if it has experienced extreme temperature changes or physical stress. Brittle cast iron is more prone to cracking or breaking.

Corrosion Underneath Handles:
Moisture and food particles can accumulate underneath handles and cause corrosion. Regular cleaning and thorough drying are essential to prevent this issue.

Loss of Original Features:

Over time, cast iron may lose some of its original features, such as handles, lids, or decorative elements. This can impact the historical or collector's value of the piece.

Metal – Tool: Storage and Materials Guidance

Clean and Dry Tools:

Before storing, clean the tools thoroughly to remove any dirt, grease, or rust. Ensure they are completely dry to prevent corrosion.

Rust Prevention:

Apply a light coating of oil or rust inhibitor to metal surfaces to prevent rust formation during storage.

Individual Wrapping:

Wrap each tool individually in soft cloth or bubble wrap to prevent scratches and minimize contact between metal surfaces.

Tool Chests or Cabinets:

Store tools in dedicated tool chests or cabinets with drawers to keep them organized and protected from dust and moisture.

Silica Gel Packs:

Place silica gel packs or moisture-absorbing products in storage containers or cabinets to maintain low humidity levels and prevent moisture damage.

Avoid Overcrowding:

Avoid overcrowding storage containers or drawers to prevent tools from rubbing against each other and causing damage.

Labeling and Organization:

Label storage containers or drawers with the names or categories of tools stored inside for easy identification and retrieval.

Climate Control:

Store vintage tools in a climate-controlled environment to prevent temperature and humidity fluctuations, which can cause rust and deterioration.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance:

Periodically inspect stored tools for any signs of rust, damage, or wear. Perform maintenance tasks such as oiling metal parts and sharpening cutting edges as needed to keep tools in optimal condition.

Metal - Tin: Condition Considerations

Corrosion:

Tin is prone to corrosion, especially in the presence of moisture. Corrosion can manifest as rust or dark spots on the surface of the mold, affecting both its appearance and structural integrity.

Surface Wear and Scratches:

Tin jello molds may develop surface wear and scratches over time, particularly if they've been in regular use or have been cleaned with abrasive materials.

Dents or Deformations:

Accidental impacts or pressure can cause dents or deformations in tin jello molds, altering their original shape and potentially affecting their functionality.

Loss of Coating:

Some tin molds may have had a coating, such as tinning or another protective layer. Over time, this coating can wear off, leaving the tin more susceptible to corrosion.

Intricate Detail Loss:

Many tin jello molds feature intricate designs and details. Over time, wear or corrosion can lead to the loss of these details, affecting the aesthetic appeal of the mold.

Loose or Detached Handles:

If the tin mold has handles, they may become loose or detach from the main body due to wear, corrosion, or soldering issues.

Tarnishing:

Tin can tarnish over time, leading to a dull or discolored appearance. This is especially common when the molds are exposed to air and moisture.

Residue Buildup:

Residue from gelatin, food, or cleaning products may accumulate in the crevices of the mold, affecting its cleanliness and potentially leading to corrosion.

Soldering Issues:

Some tin jello molds may have seams or joints that are soldered. Over time, soldering may weaken, leading to leaks or structural problems.

Pitting:

Pitting is the development of small, localized holes or depressions on the surface of the tin, often caused by corrosion or rusting.

Conserving Tin Jello Molds:

Gentle Cleaning:

Clean tin jello molds gently using a soft sponge or cloth to avoid causing scratches or further wear. Avoid abrasive cleaning agents. After cleaning, ensure that the molds are thoroughly dried to prevent moisture-related issues like corrosion.

Storage in a Dry Environment:

Store tin jello molds in a dry environment to minimize exposure to humidity and prevent corrosion.

Avoid Harsh Chemicals:

Avoid using harsh cleaning chemicals or abrasive materials that may accelerate wear or damage the tin surface.

Periodic Inspection:

Regularly inspect tin jello molds for signs of corrosion, loose handles, or other issues. Address problems promptly to prevent further deterioration.

Handle with Care:

Handle tin jello molds with care to avoid dents, impacts, or other physical damage.

Protective Coatings:

Apply a food-safe protective coating to prevent corrosion. Consult with professionals for appropriate coatings.If tin jello molds are valuable or have historical significance, consult a conservator for proper care, restoration, or advice on preserving their condition.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Photographs

Photographs: Display Considerations

Framing:

Framing photographs is a classic and versatile method of display. Museums often use archival-quality materials and UV-protective glazing to protect the photographs from environmental damage.

Matting:

Matting photographs can enhance their presentation by providing a border and separation between the image and the frame. Museums typically use archival-quality mats to prevent damage to the artwork.

Mounting:

Mounting photographs on rigid backing boards or panels can provide support and stability for display. Museums may use conservation-grade mounting techniques to ensure the long-term preservation of the photographs.

Hanging Systems:

Museums utilize various hanging systems, such as wire hanging systems, picture rails, or track systems, to securely display photographs on walls while allowing for easy installation and adjustment.

Gallery Walls:

Creating gallery walls dedicated to displaying photographs allows museums to showcase multiple artworks in a cohesive and visually appealing manner. Curators often carefully plan the layout and arrangement of photographs to create thematic or chronological narratives.

Exhibition Cases:

Displaying photographs in exhibition cases or vitrines provides protection from dust, light, and handling while allowing viewers to see the artworks up close. Museums may use climate-controlled cases to maintain optimal environmental conditions.

Projection:

Use digital projection to display photographs, allowing for dynamic and interactive presentations. Use this method for large-scale installations or multimedia exhibitions.

Installation Art:

Photographs can be integrated into larger installation artworks, where they become part of a spatial environment or narrative created by the artist.

Interactive Displays:

Use interactive displays or touchscreen interfaces to engage visitors with photographs. This can include virtual exhibitions, digital archives, or interactive educational content related to the photographs on display.

Rotating Displays:

Museums frequently rotate their displays of photographs to showcase different works from their collections or to accommodate traveling exhibitions.

Photograph: Condition Considerations

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, particularly sunlight and UV radiation, can cause fading and discoloration over time.

Yellowing:

Aging and exposure to acidic materials can cause photographs to yellow, particularly in the paper or print surface.

Emulsion Cracks:

Racks or splits in the emulsion layer of the photograph, often caused by physical stress or poor storage conditions.

Silvering:

Silver mirroring or silvering occurs when metallic silver migrates to the surface of the photograph, creating a reflective or metallic appearance.

Mold and Mildew:

High humidity and moisture can lead to mold and mildew growth on the surface of the photograph, causing staining and deterioration.

Foxing:

Foxing refers to the appearance of brownish spots or stains caused by fungal growth or exposure to acidic materials.

Tears and Losses:

Physical damage such as tears, creases, or losses in the photograph's surface, often caused by mishandling or poor storage.

Emulsion Flaking:

Flaking or peeling of the emulsion layer, typically caused by age, improper handling, or exposure to moisture.

Adhesive Residue:

Residue left behind by adhesive materials used for mounting or framing photographs, which can cause staining and deterioration.

Warpage:

Warping or buckling of the photograph's support material (e.g., paper, cardboard) due to fluctuations in humidity or improper storage conditions.

Photographs: Storage and Materials Guidance

Temperature and Humidity Control:

Store photographs in a cool, dry environment to prevent the growth of mold and deterioration. Keep the storage area at a constant temperature and humidity level. Avoid storing photographs in basements or attics where temperature and humidity levels can fluctuate.

Avoid Sunlight and UV Exposure:

Sunlight and ultraviolet (UV) rays can fade and damage photographs over time. Store them away from direct sunlight and fluorescent lights.

Use Archival-Quality Materials:

Choose archival-quality storage materials, such as acid-free folders, boxes, and sleeves. Acid-free materials help prevent yellowing and deterioration of photographs.

Handle with Clean Hands:

Wash and thoroughly dry your hands before handling photographs. The natural oils and dirt on your hands can transfer to the photographs, causing damage over time.

Protective Sleeves and Enclosures:

Place photographs in individual protective sleeves or enclosures made of archival materials. These can shield them from dust, dirt, and physical damage.

Store Flat or Upright:

If possible, store photographs flat to prevent bending or warping. If storing upright, make sure they are well-supported to prevent curling.

Labeling and Organization:

Label photographs with archival-safe pens or pencils to avoid damage. Organize them in a logical order within acid-free albums or boxes.

Digital Backup:

Consider digitizing your old photographs as a backup measure. This not only provides an additional way to view and share them but also ensures that you have a copy in case of damage or loss.

Avoid Adhesives:

Refrain from using adhesive materials like tape, glue, or self-adhesive albums. These can damage photographs and are challenging to remove.

Regular Inspection:

Periodically check your stored photographs for any signs of damage or deterioration. Catching issues early allows for timely intervention and preservation efforts.

Archival-Quality Photo Sleeves:

Use clear, archival-quality plastic sleeves made from materials like polyethylene, polypropylene, or Mylar. These sleeves provide protection against dust, dirt, and handling.

Acid-Free Paper:

Place photographs between sheets of acid-free, archival-quality paper to prevent direct contact between photos and the plastic sleeves. Acid-free paper helps prevent yellowing and deterioration.

Archival Photo Boxes:

Store individual photographs in acid-free archival photo boxes. These boxes provide protection from light, dust, and physical damage. Choose boxes that are sturdy and properly sized to prevent photos from bending or warping.

Glassine Paper:

Use glassine paper as interleaving material. It's a smooth and translucent paper that helps protect photographs from sticking together while also providing a barrier against dust and scratches.

Archival-Quality Photo Mounts:

If you plan to display photographs, use archival-quality photo mounts or corners. These ensure that the photos are secured without causing damage. Avoid adhesives that can degrade over time.

Archival Pens/Pencils:

Use archival-quality pens or pencils to label photographs. Avoid regular pens or markers, as they can contain acids that may transfer to the photos.

Micro-Chamber Paper:

Consider using micro-chamber paper, which contains zeolites to absorb pollutants and gases that might contribute to the deterioration of photographs.

Cotton Gloves:

When handling photographs, wear clean cotton gloves to prevent oils and dirt from your hands transferring to the prints.

Avoid PVC and Lignin:

Stay away from materials that contain PVC (polyvinyl chloride) and lignin, as they can release harmful acids over time and cause deterioration.

Store in a Dark, Cool, and Dry Place:

Store your photographs in a dark, cool, and dry environment. Avoid places with extreme temperature fluctuations and high humidity.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Rattan

Rattan: Condition Considerations

Brittleness:

Over time, rattan can become brittle, especially if exposed to sunlight and dry conditions. This can lead to the development of cracks and breakages.

Fading and Discoloration:

Rattan is susceptible to fading and discoloration when exposed to prolonged sunlight or harsh artificial light. UV rays can cause the natural colors of rattan to dull over time.

Mold and Mildew:

Rattan is susceptible to mold and mildew growth, especially in humid conditions. Improper storage or exposure to moisture can lead to the development of these fungi, resulting in stains and structural damage.

Insect Infestation:

Insects, such as termites, can be attracted to rattan objects, leading to infestations and structural damage. Proper storage and preventive measures are essential to avoid insect-related conservation issues.

Loose or Broken Wraps:

Rattan furniture often features intricate weaving or wrapping techniques. Over time, these wraps may become loose or break, affecting the structural integrity and appearance of the object.

Loss of Flexibility:

Rattan can lose its natural flexibility and become stiff over time. This can affect the overall durability and comfort of furniture made from rattan.

Surface Scratches and Abrasions:

Rattan surfaces are susceptible to scratches and abrasions, which can result from regular use or contact with sharp objects. This can affect the aesthetics of the object.

Deformation:

Changes in temperature and humidity levels can cause rattan to expand or contract, leading to deformation. This can result in changes in shape or warping.

Creaking or Noisy Joints:

Rattan furniture with joints or connections may develop creaking or noisy sounds over time. This can be due to changes in humidity affecting the joints.

Loss of Original Finish:

The original finish on rattan objects, such as varnish or lacquer, can wear off over time, affecting the protective layer and exposing the material to potential damage.

Unraveling Bindings:

Rattan furniture often incorporates bindings or wrappings to secure joints and add decorative elements. Over time, these bindings may unravel, affecting both the aesthetics and stability of the object.

Dust Accumulation:

Dust and dirt can accumulate in the crevices of rattan furniture, affecting its appearance and potentially leading to degradation over time.

Conserving rattan objects involves proper care and preventive measures. Here are some conservation tips:

Regular Cleaning:

Dust and clean rattan objects regularly using a soft brush or vacuum cleaner to prevent the accumulation of dirt.

Avoiding Sunlight:

Place rattan objects away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and discoloration.

Humidity Control:

Maintain a stable environment with controlled humidity levels to prevent issues such as mold growth and loss of flexibility.

Periodic Inspection:

Regularly inspect rattan objects for signs of damage, loose bindings, or insect infestation. Address issues promptly.

Protective Measures:

Use protective covers or cushions to shield rattan furniture from potential scratches and abrasions.

Professional Restoration: If rattan objects are significantly damaged, consider consulting a professional conservator for restoration and repair.

By addressing these conservation issues and adopting proper care practices, you can ensure the longevity and beauty of rattan objects.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Textile

Textile: Display Considerations

Hanging:

Textiles such as tapestries, quilts, and clothing are often displayed by hanging them from rods or hooks. This method allows viewers to see the full extent of the textile while minimizing handling and stress on the fabric.

Mounting:

Mounting textiles onto rigid backing boards or panels provides support and stability for display. Use conservation-grade materials and techniques to ensure the long-term preservation of the textiles.

Frames and Cases:

Some smaller textiles, such as embroidered samplers or handkerchiefs, are displayed in frames or exhibition cases. This protects them from dust, light, and handling while allowing viewers to see them up close.

Mannequins:

Clothing and costumes are often displayed on mannequins to convey their original shape and form. Use specially designed mannequins and supports to ensure proper support and fit without causing damage to the textiles.

Flatbed Display Cases:

Flatbed display cases with adjustable covers are used to showcase delicate textiles, such as fragile textiles or those with intricate surface details. Covers protect the textiles while allowing them to be viewed without direct handling.

Rotating Displays:

Rotate displays of textiles to showcase different pieces from the collection and to help preserve the textile.

Interactive Displays:

Use interactive displays or touchscreen interfaces to engage visitors with textiles. This can include virtual exhibitions, digital archives, or interactive educational content related to the textiles on display.

Textile: Condition Considerations

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, especially sunlight, can lead to fading and discoloration of textiles. This is a common issue for items displayed in open areas without UV protection.

Staining:

Stains can result from exposure to liquids, food, or environmental pollutants. Some stains may be challenging to remove, and improper cleaning methods can exacerbate the problem.

Mold and Mildew:
High humidity and poor ventilation can contribute to the growth of mold and mildew on textiles. These biological agents can cause discoloration, weakening of fibers, and an unpleasant musty odor.

Insect Infestation:

Insects, such as moths and carpet beetles, can damage textiles by feeding on natural fibers. Larvae can leave behind holes and silk webbing, leading to irreversible damage.

Tears and Rips:

Wear and tear, as well as improper handling, can result in tears and rips in textile materials. These issues may compromise the structural integrity and aesthetics of the textile.

Fraying and Loss of Fibers:

Over time, fibers in textiles can become weak, leading to fraying and the loss of fibers. This is particularly common in areas that experience frequent friction or stress.

Weak or Damaged Seams:

Seams can weaken over time, leading to structural issues in garments or textiles with stitched components. This can result in the unraveling of seams and the overall deterioration of the textile.

Shrinkage:

Exposure to moisture or improper cleaning methods can cause textiles to shrink. This is especially problematic for items that have not been pre-shrunk or for delicate fabrics.

Chemical Deterioration:

Exposure to pollutants, chemicals, and airborne contaminants can contribute to the deterioration of textiles. This can manifest as changes in color, texture, or strength.

Creasing and Folding Damage:

Prolonged folding or creasing can cause permanent damage to textiles, resulting in creases that are difficult to remove. Improper storage can contribute to this issue.

Loss of Elasticity:

Elastic fibers in textiles, such as spandex or rubber, can lose their elasticity over time. This is common in undergarments and stretch fabrics.

Tape Residue:

Previous repairs or the use of adhesive tapes can leave residue on textiles, which may be challenging to remove without causing further damage.

Loss of Original Finish:

Certain textiles, especially those with special finishes or coatings, may experience a loss of their original finish over time. This can affect the appearance and protective qualities of the material.

Environmental Factors:

Fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels can contribute to the deterioration of textiles. Extreme conditions may accelerate the aging process and cause irreversible damage.

Textile: Storage and Materials Guidance

Conserving textiles involves proper storage, handling, and, in some cases, professional intervention. By addressing these conservation issues and adopting proper care practices, you can extend the lifespan of textiles and preserve their cultural, historical, or personal significance. Here are some conservation practices for textiles:

Proper Cleaning:

Clean textiles using appropriate methods, avoiding harsh chemicals and aggressive washing. Consult with a conservator for delicate items.

Storage in Controlled Environments:

Store textiles in a controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels. Use archival-quality materials for packaging and storage.

Pest Prevention:

Implement preventive measures to protect textiles from insect infestations. This may include regular inspection, proper storage, and, if necessary, the use of insect-repelling materials.

Gentle Handling:

Handle textiles with care, especially fragile or delicate items. Use supports when moving or displaying textiles to minimize stress on fibers and seams. Avoid Sunlight Exposure: Minimize exposure to direct sunlight to prevent fading and discoloration. Use UV-filtering materials for display cases or curtains.

Regular Inspection:

Conduct regular inspections of textiles to identify issues early. Address any signs of damage promptly to prevent further deterioration.

Conservation and Restoration:

Consult with professional conservators for the conservation and restoration of valuable or historically significant textiles. They can provide expertise in handling and treating specific issues.

Cotton Garment Bags:

Cotton garment bags are breathable and provide protection against dust and light. They are suitable for long-term storage and can be used for hanging garments.

Moth-Proof Garment Bags:

Garment bags with moth-proof features provide an additional layer of protection against moth damage. Look for bags with integrated moth repellents or use separate moth deterrents like sachets.

Acid-Free Boxes:

Acid-free boxes are suitable for folded items or accessories. These boxes help prevent acid migration, which can lead to yellowing and deterioration of textiles. Use archival-quality boxes for long-term storage.

Plastic Storage Bins with Lids:

While acid-free boxes are most suitable for textiles, if conditions necessitate, plastic storage bins with secure lids can be used to protect textile objects from dust and pests. If used, opt for bins made from polypropylene or polyethylene, as they are less likely to release harmful chemicals.

Muslin Cloth Bags:

Muslin cloth bags provide a breathable and dust-resistant storage option. They are suitable for items that need protection but still require air circulation.

Hanging Wardrobe Storage:

Hanging wardrobe storage units with shelves and compartments are ideal for organizing and protecting clothes. They often come with zippered covers for added protection.

Drawer Liners:

Line drawers with acid-free or cedar drawer liners to create a protected environment for clothes. Make sure the liners are clean and free from contaminants.

Silk and Satin Garment Bags:

Silk and satin garment bags are suitable for delicate items like evening gowns or formal wear. They offer a smooth and protective surface that minimizes friction.

Canvas Storage Bags:

Canvas storage bags are sturdy and breathable, making them suitable for long-term storage. They often come with zippers and handles for easy access.

Wardrobe Boxes:

Wardrobe boxes are tall boxes with a hanging bar, allowing you to store clothes on hangers. They are suitable for short-term storage during moves or renovations.

Fabric Storage Baskets:

Fabric storage baskets are suitable for organizing smaller items like scarves, gloves, or accessories. Opt for baskets made from breathable and non-reactive materials.

TYVEK Rolls:

Protective lining for artwork, textiles and fragile valuables.

UV-Filtered Containers:

If storing clothes in an area with exposure to sunlight, use containers with UV filters to protect fabrics from fading and discoloration.

Remember these general tips when storing clothes:

- Clean garments before storage to prevent stains and odors.
- Avoid plastic bags for long-term storage, as they can trap moisture.
- Store clothes in a cool, dark, and dry environment.
- Check stored items periodically for signs of pests or damage.

Ultimately, the choice of container depends on the type of clothing, the storage duration, and the specific conservation needs of the items.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Sterling Silver and Silver Plate

Silver: Display Considerations

Display Trays or Platters:

Arrange the flatware on decorative trays or platters. Choose trays that complement the style of your flatware and add a touch of sophistication to the display.

Wall-Mounted Racks:

Install wall-mounted racks designed for flatware display. These racks can showcase your pieces vertically, creating a visually appealing and space-saving display.

Shadow Boxes:

Use shadow boxes with compartments to display flatware in an organized and visually interesting manner. Shadow boxes are particularly effective for showcasing individual pieces or small sets.

Hanging Flatware on Hooks:

Hang flatware on decorative hooks mounted on the wall. This method adds a unique and artistic touch to the display, and it allows for easy access to individual pieces.

Glass Display Cabinets:

Place silver-plated flatware in a glass-fronted display cabinet. The transparent panels protect the flatware from dust and allow you to enjoy the visual impact of the entire collection.

Decorative Bowls or Vases:

Arrange flatware in decorative bowls or vases, placing the pieces upright for an elegant and decorative effect. This works well for smaller sets or individual pieces.

Lined Drawer Display:

If you have a set of flatware with a beautiful pattern, consider lining a shallow drawer with anti-tarnish fabric and arranging the pieces for a clean and organized display.

Place Settings on a Table:

Set a dining table with your silver-plated flatware to create an inviting and classic display. This method allows you to showcase the practical and aesthetic aspects of the flatware simultaneously.

Tall Glass Jars or Apothecary Jars:

Display flatware in tall glass jars or apothecary jars. This method adds a vintage and decorative touch while keeping the flatware visible.

Candelabra Display:

Arrange flatware on candelabras or candle holders to create a unique and functional display. This works especially well for pieces with intricate details.

Serving Tray Display:

Use a decorative serving tray to display a small set or a curated selection of flatware. This method allows for mobility and flexibility in changing the display.

Lined Display Drawers:

Consider a lined drawer in a sideboard or buffet for displaying flatware. Arrange the pieces neatly with proper spacing to showcase the entire set.

Table Centerpiece:

Use flatware as a decorative centerpiece on a dining or coffee table. Place the pieces in a stylish container or arrange them in a decorative pattern for visual interest.

Mixed Media Displays:

Combine flatware with other decorative items like framed artwork, candles, or floral arrangements to create a visually appealing and cohesive display.

Label or Describe the Set:

Provide information about the flatware set, such as its pattern or history, using small labels or description cards. This adds an educational element to the display.

Silver: Condition Considerations

Tarnish:

Tarnish is a natural process that occurs when silver reacts with sulfur compounds in the air, forming a dark patina on the surface. Tarnish affects the appearance of silver-plated flatware, giving it a dull or discolored look.

Corrosion:

Corrosion can occur if silver-plated items are exposed to high humidity or harsh environmental conditions. It may manifest as pitting, rough spots, or an overall deterioration of the metal surface.

Loss of Plating:

Over time, the silver plating on flatware can wear away due to regular use, cleaning, or polishing. This can result in areas where the base metal is exposed, affecting the overall appearance and value of the flatware.

Scratches and Abrasions:

Silver-plated flatware is susceptible to scratches and abrasions, especially if cleaned or stored improperly. Scratches can remove the protective plating and expose the underlying metal to tarnish and corrosion.

Deterioration of Handles:

If the flatware has handles made from materials other than silver, such as wood or composite materials, these components may deteriorate over time, affecting the overall integrity of the piece.

Chemical Damage:

Exposure to harsh cleaning agents or chemicals can damage the silver plating on flatware. Acidic substances can accelerate tarnishing and corrode the metal.

Improper Cleaning Methods:

Using abrasive materials or harsh cleaning methods can scratch or remove the silver plating. It's essential to follow recommended cleaning practices to avoid damage.

Storage Issues:

Improper storage, such as leaving silver-plated flatware in contact with other metals or in humid conditions, can contribute to tarnish and corrosion.

Incomplete Drying:

Failing to thoroughly dry silver-plated flatware after washing can promote tarnishing. Water spots or residual moisture can lead to corrosion over time.

Prolonged Exposure to Air and Light:

Prolonged exposure to air and light can accelerate tarnishing. Storing silver-plated flatware in airtight containers or tarnish-resistant storage bags can help mitigate this issue.

Loss of Details and Engravings:

Decorative details, engravings, or embossing on silver-plated flatware may wear away or become less defined over time, especially if subjected to frequent cleaning or polishing.

Insect Infestation:

Silver-plated flatware stored in areas prone to pests may be at risk of insect infestation. Insects can cause damage to the plating and affect the overall condition of the flatware.

To address and prevent these conservation issues, consider the following tips:

- Clean silver-plated flatware gently using a mild silver polish and soft cloth.
- Store flatware in a cool, dry environment, preferably in tarnish-resistant storage bags.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to harsh chemicals and abrasive cleaning agents.
- Handle flatware with clean hands to prevent the transfer of oils and acids.
- Rotate the use of flatware to ensure even wear and prevent excessive damage to specific pieces.

If silver-plated flatware requires professional attention or restoration, it's advisable to consult with a qualified silversmith or conservator who specializes in metal objects.

Silver Plate: Storage and Materials Guidance

Silverplate storage Anti-Tarnish Storage Bags or Rolls:

Use anti-tarnish storage bags or rolls that are specially designed to protect silver from tarnishing. These bags typically contain tarnish-resistant materials that create a barrier against environmental factors.

Anti-Tarnish Strips:

Place anti-tarnish strips, also known as tarnish tabs or papers, in the storage area. These strips release chemicals that absorb airborne pollutants, preventing tarnish on the silver-plated flatware.

Silver Cloth Drawer Liners:

Line drawers with silver cloth, which is impregnated with anti-tarnish agents. The cloth creates a protective environment and helps prevent tarnishing.

Divided Storage Trays:

Use divided storage trays or organizers to separate individual pieces of flatware. This prevents items from touching each other, minimizing the risk of scratches and reducing the likelihood of tarnish transfer.

Flatware Chests with Anti-Tarnish Lining:

Invest in a flatware chest or box with an anti-tarnish lining. These chests often have individual slots for each piece of flatware, providing secure and organized storage.

Chests with Drawer Liners:

Choose flatware chests with built-in drawer liners made of anti-tarnish material. These liners provide an added layer of protection for the stored flatware.

Airtight Containers:

Store silver-plated flatware in airtight containers or sealed plastic bags to minimize exposure to air and moisture. Ensure that the containers are made of materials that won't react with the silver.

Avoid Rubber Bands or Plastic Wrap:

Avoid using rubber bands or plastic wrap directly on silver-plated flatware, as these materials can trap moisture and contribute to tarnish. Instead, opt for anti-tarnish storage solutions.

Store in a Cool, Dry Place:

Choose a cool, dry storage location to help slow down the tarnishing process. Avoid storing flatware in areas with high humidity or extreme temperature fluctuations.

Regular Cleaning:

Clean the flatware before storage to remove any residual food, oils, or contaminants. This helps prevent tarnish and ensures that the flatware is stored in a clean condition.

Handle with Clean Hands:

Handle silver-plated flatware with clean hands. Oils and acids from the skin can contribute to tarnish, so it's best to wash hands thoroughly before handling the flatware.

Rotate Usage:

Rotate the use of silver-plated flatware to ensure that all pieces receive equal exposure. This helps prevent certain pieces from developing tarnish while others remain pristine.

Keep Away from Direct Sunlight:

Store silver-plated flatware away from direct sunlight, as exposure to sunlight can accelerate tarnishing. Choose storage locations that are shielded from natural light.

Regular Inspection:

Periodically inspect the stored flatware for any signs of tarnish, damage, or environmental changes. Address any issues promptly to prevent further deterioration.

By employing these storage practices, you can extend the lifespan of your silver-plated flatware and maintain its aesthetic appeal for years to come.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Furniture

Furniture: Display Considerations

Display Pedestals:

Display pedestals come in various sizes and materials, such as wood, metal, or acrylic, and are used to elevate and showcase individual pieces of furniture. They provide a stable and visually appealing platform for displaying furniture in galleries or exhibition spaces.

Display Risers:

Risers are adjustable platforms or supports that can be used to elevate specific parts of furniture, such as legs or arms, to enhance visibility and highlight intricate details. They can be customized to accommodate different shapes and sizes of furniture.

Platform Trucks:

Platform trucks or dollies are used to transport and maneuver large or heavy pieces of furniture safely within museum galleries or storage facilities. They feature sturdy platforms and wheels for easy mobility without causing damage to the furniture.

Display Cases:

Display cases with glass or acrylic panels are used to protect and showcase delicate or valuable furniture pieces, such as miniatures or decorative objects. They provide a barrier against dust, light, and handling while allowing for clear visibility.

Lighting Fixtures:

Lighting fixtures, such as track lights or spotlights, are used to illuminate furniture displays and enhance their visual impact. Proper lighting helps highlight details, textures, and finishes while creating an inviting atmosphere for viewers.

Textile Supports:

Textile supports, such as padded cushions or fabric-covered mounts, are used to support and protect upholstered furniture pieces during display. They help distribute weight evenly and minimize stress on delicate upholstery materials.

Furniture: Condition Considerations

Surface Damage:

Scratches, dents, and gouges on the surface of furniture are common signs of wear and tear. These can detract from the appearance of the piece and may require repair or refinishing.

Structural Instability:

Weak joints, loose or missing hardware, and warped or split wood can compromise the structural integrity of furniture, making it unstable or unsafe to use.

Woodworm Damage:

Wood-boring insects such as beetles and termites can cause extensive damage to wooden furniture by burrowing into the wood and feeding on the cellulose fibers. This can result in holes, tunnels, and weakened structural components.

Wood Rot:

Exposure to moisture and humidity can cause wood to rot, leading to decay, mold growth, and structural weakness. Rot typically occurs in damp or poorly ventilated environments and can spread quickly if not addressed.

Finish Loss:

The loss of finish or surface coatings, such as varnish, lacquer, or paint, can leave furniture vulnerable to damage from moisture, stains, and UV radiation. This can result in discoloration, fading, and deterioration of the underlying wood.

Insect Infestation:

Furniture can be infested by a variety of insects, including beetles, moths, and carpet beetles, which feed on organic materials such as wood, upholstery, and textiles. Infestations can cause damage to the furniture's structure, finish, and upholstery materials.

Upholstery Damage:

Tears, rips, stains, and fading in upholstery fabrics and materials are common issues with upholstered furniture. This can detract from the appearance and comfort of the piece and may require repair or replacement.

Mechanical Damage:

Moving or handling furniture improperly can result in mechanical damage such as broken legs, loose joints, or bent hardware. This can affect the functionality and stability of the piece and may require repair or reinforcement.

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to sunlight and UV radiation can cause fading and discoloration of furniture finishes, upholstery fabrics, and wood surfaces. This can result in uneven coloration, loss of vibrancy, and deterioration of the materials over time.

Environmental Factors:

Fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels can cause wood to expand and contract, leading to warping, splitting, and distortion of furniture components. Exposure to high levels of humidity can also promote mold growth and decay in organic materials.

Furniture: Storage and Materials Guidance

Climate-Controlled Storage:

Museums typically store furniture in climate-controlled environments to maintain stable temperature and humidity levels. This helps prevent fluctuations that can lead to wood warping, mold growth, or other damage.

Custom Storage Racks: Custom-built storage racks are designed to safely support and store furniture pieces while minimizing the risk of damage. These racks can be adjustable to accommodate different sizes and shapes of furniture.

Padding and Cushioning:

Furniture is often wrapped or padded with archival-quality materials, such as acid-free tissue paper or polyethylene foam, to provide cushioning and protection during storage. This helps prevent scratches, dents, and other surface damage.

Vertical Storage:

Some furniture pieces, such as chairs or tables, are stored vertically to save space and minimize stress on joints and structural components. Custom racks or shelving units are designed to support furniture in an upright position securely.

Support Blocks and Spacers:

Support blocks and spacers are used to distribute weight evenly and prevent stress on delicate or fragile areas of furniture during storage. They help maintain structural integrity and minimize the risk of warping or distortion.

Protection from Light:

Store furniture away from direct sunlight and other sources of UV radiation to prevent fading, discoloration, and deterioration of finishes. Light-blocking covers or curtains may be used to further protect furniture from light exposure.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance:

Conduct regular inspections of stored furniture to check for signs of damage, pest infestation, or deterioration. Any necessary maintenance or conservation treatments are performed promptly to preserve the integrity of the furniture.

Pest Control Measures:

Implement pest control measures, such as regular cleaning, monitoring, and treatment with insecticides or fumigants, to prevent damage from pests such as insects or rodents. Keep storage areas clean and free of food sources that may attract pests.

Security Measures:

Furniture storage areas are equipped with security measures such as alarms, surveillance cameras, and restricted access controls to prevent theft or unauthorized handling of objects. Valuable or high-risk furniture pieces may be stored in locked cabinets or vaults for additional security.

Documentation and Inventory:

Maintain detailed documentation and inventory records of stored furniture, including photographs, descriptions, condition reports, and location data. This information helps track the whereabouts and condition of each piece and facilitates retrieval for exhibition or research purposes.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Fine Art

Fine Art: Display Considerations

Picture Rails:

Picture rails mounted on walls allow for flexible and secure hanging of artwork, mirrors, or decorative objects above furniture displays. They provide a versatile solution for showcasing complementary pieces without the need for additional holes or mounting hardware.

Art Hanging Systems:

Art hanging systems consist of rails, cables, and hooks designed to securely hang artwork or decorative elements above furniture displays. They offer flexibility in arranging and rearranging displays without damaging walls or furniture surfaces.

Adjustable Easels:

Adjustable easels are used to display smaller pieces of furniture, such as decorative screens or tabletop accessories, at optimal viewing angles. They can be adjusted to accommodate different heights and angles, allowing for versatile display options.

Fine Art: Condition Considerations

Dirt and Surface Soiling:

Accumulation of dirt, dust, and other pollutants on the surface of the artwork can obscure details, alter colors, and diminish the overall aesthetic appeal. Surface soiling can be particularly problematic for works with delicate or porous surfaces.

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, especially ultraviolet (UV) radiation, can cause fading and discoloration of pigments and dyes used in paintings, prints, photographs, and textiles. This can lead to changes in color intensity, loss of contrast, and overall degradation of the artwork's appearance.

Cracks and Flaking:

Paintings on canvas or panel may develop cracks or flaking due to fluctuations in temperature and humidity, improper handling, or inherent structural weaknesses. Cracks can compromise the integrity of the paint layer and lead to loss of pigment and support.

Tears and Rips:

Tears and rips in canvas paintings, paper-based artworks, and textiles can occur as a result of mishandling, improper storage, or accidents. These damages can be visually distracting and require careful repair by a professional conservator.

Mold and Mildew:

High humidity or moisture can promote the growth of mold and mildew on the surface of artworks, particularly those made from organic materials such as paper, wood, and textiles. Mold and mildew can cause staining, discoloration, and structural damage if left untreated.

Insect Infestation:

Insects such as beetles, moths, and silverfish can infest artworks made from organic materials such as wood, paper, textiles, and fur. Insect damage can include holes, feeding trails, and frass (insect waste), which can compromise the structural integrity of the artwork.

Foxing:

Foxing refers to the appearance of small brownish spots or stains on paper-based artworks caused by fungal growth or oxidation of impurities in the paper. Foxing can be difficult to remove and may require specialized treatment by a conservator.

Varnish Discoloration:

Varnishes applied to paintings as a protective coating can yellow, darken, or become cloudy over time due to aging or exposure to environmental pollutants. Discolored varnish can alter the appearance of the artwork and may need to be removed and replaced by a professional conservator.

Canvas Sagging and Stretcher Bar Issues:

Canvas paintings may sag or become loose on their stretcher bars over time due to changes in humidity or improper stretching techniques. Stretcher bars can also warp or become loose, affecting the tension and support of the canvas.

Loss of Original Materials:

Loss of original materials, such as paint, gesso, or substrate, can occur due to physical damage, chemical reactions, or inherent vice. Missing or damaged areas can compromise the integrity and authenticity of the artwork and may require careful restoration.

Fine Art: Storage and Materials Considerations

Climate-Controlled Environment:

Store fine art in a climate-controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels. Ideal conditions are around 65-70°F (18-21°C) and 40-50% relative humidity. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity can cause damage to artworks over time.

Archival-Quality Materials:

Use archival-quality materials for storage containers, packing materials, and display supports to ensure the preservation of fine art. Archival materials are acid-free, lignin-free, and pH-neutral, reducing the risk of deterioration and chemical reactions.

Custom Storage Solutions:

Design custom storage solutions tailored to the specific needs of each artwork, taking into account its size, medium, and fragility. Custom crates, boxes, or shelving units can provide optimal protection and support for artworks during storage.

Vertical Storage:

Store artworks vertically rather than horizontally to minimize stress on the support and prevent warping or bending. Use adjustable shelving or racks to accommodate artworks of different sizes and formats.

Padding and Cushioning:

Use archival-quality padding and cushioning materials such as acid-free tissue paper, foam, or bubble wrap to protect artworks from physical damage during storage. Wrap fragile or delicate artworks carefully to prevent scratches, tears, or abrasions.

Isolation from Harmful Elements:

Store artworks away from sources of light, heat, moisture, and pollutants that can cause damage over time. Keep artworks off the floor to protect them from water damage and pests, and use protective covers or enclosures as needed.

Proper Handling and Transport:

Handle and transport artworks with care to prevent damage from mishandling or accidents. Use gloves when handling delicate or sensitive materials, and support artworks from underneath to distribute weight evenly and prevent stress on the support.

Security Measures:

Implement security measures such as alarms, surveillance cameras, and restricted access controls to protect artworks from theft, vandalism, or unauthorized handling. Store valuable or high-risk artworks in secure locations or vaults for additional protection.

Regular Monitoring and Inspection:

Conduct regular monitoring and inspection of stored artworks to check for signs of damage, deterioration, or pest infestation. Address any issues promptly to prevent further damage and ensure the long-term preservation of the artworks.

Documentation and Inventory:

Maintain detailed documentation and inventory records of stored artworks, including photographs, descriptions, condition reports, and location data. This information helps track the whereabouts and condition of each artwork and facilitates retrieval for exhibition or research purposes.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Compact Discs

Compact Discs: Display Considerations

CD Racks:

Use purpose-built CD racks or shelving units designed specifically to hold CDs. These racks typically have slots or compartments to neatly organize and display CDs, making it easy to browse and access them.

Wall-Mounted Display:

Install wall-mounted CD displays or shelves to showcase CDs as a decorative feature in a room. This method maximizes space and allows for easy browsing of the collection.

Floating Shelves:

Floating shelves provide a sleek and minimalist display option for CDs. Arrange CDs on the shelves in rows or stacks to create an organized and visually appealing display.

Acrylic Stands:

Acrylic stands or easels can be used to display individual CDs upright on countertops, shelves, or display cases. This method allows for easy browsing and can be used to highlight specific CDs or albums.

CD Frames:

Display favorite or collectible CDs in frames designed to hold CD cases. Hang the frames on the wall like artwork to showcase the album artwork or display a curated selection of CDs.

Rotating CD Towers:

Rotating CD towers or carousels provide a space-saving and efficient way to store and display CDs. These towers can be placed on countertops or tables for easy access to the entire CD collection.

Nested Boxes:

Use nested boxes or trays to store and display CDs in an organized and compact manner. Label the boxes or trays by genre, artist, or theme to facilitate browsing and selection.

Custom Display Cases:

Design custom display cases or cabinets with built-in lighting to showcase CDs as a focal point in a room. These cases can be tailored to fit the size and style of the CD collection while providing protection from dust and damage.

CD Flip Bins:

Use CD flip bins or organizers to display CDs in a compact and accessible manner. These bins typically feature tiered rows of CDs that can be flipped through like a book, making it easy to browse and select CDs.

Interactive Displays:

Create interactive displays or kiosks with touchscreen interfaces to allow visitors to browse and explore a digital catalog of CDs. This method can be used in retail environments, libraries, or museums to showcase CDs and provide additional information about the music and artists.

CD: Condition Considerations

Scratches:

Scratches on the surface of a CD can interfere with the laser reading mechanism, causing skips, pops, or total playback failure. Deep scratches may render certain tracks or the entire disc unreadable.

Cracks:

Cracks in the CD's surface can cause irreparable damage, leading to playback issues or even complete disc failure. CDs are particularly fragile and can crack if mishandled or subjected to excessive force.

Warped or Bent:

Warping or bending of the CD can occur due to exposure to heat, pressure, or improper storage conditions. A warped CD may not sit properly in the disc drive or may cause playback problems due to misalignment.

Fading or Oxidation:

Exposure to light, heat, and humidity can cause the reflective layer of the CD to fade or oxidize over time. This can lead to a loss of data integrity and affect the clarity and accuracy of the audio playback.

Sticky Residue:

Sticky residue from labels, adhesives, or improper cleaning solutions can accumulate on the surface of the CD, attracting dust and dirt. This residue can interfere with the laser reading mechanism and cause playback issues.

Rot:

CD rot, also known as disc deterioration syndrome, is a condition where the reflective layer of the CD degrades over time, causing data loss and audio distortion. This can occur due to manufacturing defects, exposure to environmental contaminants, or poor-quality materials.

Mold and Mildew:

CDs stored in humid or damp environments are susceptible to mold and mildew growth, which can cause discoloration, staining, and damage to the surface of the disc. Moldy CDs may become unplayable and pose health risks if handled without proper precautions.

Fingerprints and Smudges:

Fingerprints, oils, and smudges left on the surface of the CD can interfere with the laser reading mechanism and cause playback problems. Cleaning CDs with abrasive or harsh materials can exacerbate this issue.

Label Damage:

Labels affixed to the surface of the CD can peel, bubble, or become dislodged over time, exposing the underlying disc to potential damage. Improper label removal techniques can also cause scratches or residue buildup on the disc.

Data Corruption:

Data corruption can occur due to magnetic fields, electrical interference, or manufacturing defects, resulting in errors or anomalies during playback. CDs with corrupted data may skip, stutter, or fail to play certain tracks altogether.

CD: Storage and Materials Guidance

Keep CDs in Cases:

Store CDs in their original jewel cases or other protective cases to shield them from dust, scratches, and exposure to light. Avoid stacking CDs directly on top of each other without protection.

Store Vertically:

Store CDs vertically on shelves rather than stacking them horizontally. This reduces the risk of warping or bending the discs and makes it easier to access individual CDs without causing damage.

Control Temperature and Humidity:

Maintain a stable environment with moderate temperature and humidity levels. Avoid storing CDs in areas prone to extreme heat, cold, or moisture, as these conditions can accelerate deterioration.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Keep CDs away from direct sunlight and sources of UV radiation, as prolonged exposure can cause discoloration and deterioration of the disc's reflective layer.

Use Archival Storage:

For long-term storage, consider using archival-quality storage materials such as acid-free sleeves or binders designed specifically for CDs. These materials help protect the discs from environmental contaminants and degradation.

Handle with Care:

When handling CDs, hold them by the edges or the center hole to avoid touching the shiny underside (data side) of the disc. Fingerprints, dirt, and scratches on the data side can interfere with playback and damage the disc.

Keep CDs Clean:

Clean CDs periodically using a soft, lint-free cloth or a CD cleaning solution specifically designed for optical media. Wipe the disc gently in a straight line from the center to the outer edge, avoiding circular motions that can cause scratches.

Store in a Cool, Dark Place:

Choose a storage location that is cool, dry, and dark, such as a closet or storage cabinet. Avoid storing CDs in areas with high humidity, such as basements or bathrooms, as moisture can promote mold growth and deterioration.

Rotate CDs:

Rotate CDs periodically by playing them or moving them to different positions on the shelf. This helps prevent discoloration and deterioration that can occur from prolonged storage in the same position.

Backup Data:

For valuable or irreplaceable CDs, consider creating backup copies of the data on a computer or external hard drive. This ensures that the data is preserved even if the original disc becomes damaged or unusable over time.

The Nash House: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Ephemera

Ephemera: Display Considerations

Ephemera are often paper-based, printed items, including such items as menus, ticket stubs, newspapers, postcards, posters, sheet music, stickers, and greeting cards. Because of the fragility of paper overtime, it is best to create replicas of the item for displays. The following are display considerations for replica ephemera:

Shadow Boxes:

Use shadow boxes to display ephemera collections in a three-dimensional format. Arrange items within the shadow box, layering them to add depth and visual interest. Shadow boxes protect items from dust and handling while allowing them to be easily viewed.

Bulletin Boards:

Pin or clip replica ephemera to a bulletin board for a casual and versatile display option. Bulletin boards can be easily customized to fit the size and shape of the items, and they allow for quick rearrangement and updating of the display.

Vintage Crates or Boxes:

Use vintage crates or boxes as display shelves for ephemera collections. Arrange items on the shelves, stacking them to create depth and visual interest. Vintage crates add rustic charm to the display while providing a unique backdrop for the items.

Floating Shelves:

Install floating shelves on a wall to create a minimalist and modern display for ephemera collections. Arrange items on the shelves in an organized manner, alternating between different sizes and types of items for visual contrast.

Photo Albums or Scrapbooks:

Create themed photo albums or scrapbooks to showcase ephemera collections in a cohesive and curated format. Arrange items chronologically or thematically, adding captions or annotations to provide context and information.

Hanging Mobiles:

Create hanging mobiles using wire, string, or dowels to suspend ephemera items in the air. Hang the mobiles from the ceiling or a wall-mounted hook to create an eye-catching display that adds movement and visual interest to the space.

Magnetic Boards:

Use magnetic boards or panels to display ephemera collections using magnets or magnetic clips. Arrange items on the board in a grid or collage format, layering them to create depth and texture.

Vintage Suitcases or Trunks:

Repurpose vintage suitcases or trunks as display cases for ephemera collections. Line the interior with fabric or padding and arrange items inside, stacking them to create a visually appealing arrangement. Vintage suitcases add character and charm to the display while providing a unique storage solution.

Ephemera: Condition Considerations

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, particularly ultraviolet (UV) radiation, can cause fading and discoloration of ephemera items. This can lead to changes in color intensity, loss of contrast, and overall degradation of the item's appearance.

Creases and Folds:

Folding or creasing of ephemera items, such as posters or pamphlets, can result in visible creases, wrinkles, and weakening of the paper. Creases can be particularly problematic for items that were originally intended to be flat or unfolded.

Tears and Rips:

Tears and rips in ephemera items can occur due to mishandling, improper storage, or accidents. Tears can compromise the integrity of the item and may require careful repair by a professional conservator.

Staining and Foxing:

Staining and foxing refer to the appearance of spots or stains on paper-based ephemera items caused by mold, mildew, or oxidation of impurities in the paper. Stains can be visually distracting and may require specialized treatment to remove.

Brittleness and Fragility:

Over time, paper-based ephemera items can become brittle and fragile, especially if exposed to high temperatures, low humidity, or acidic conditions. Brittle paper is prone to tearing and may require careful handling to prevent damage.

Adhesive Residue:

Adhesive residue from tape, glue, or stickers applied to ephemera items can cause staining, discoloration, and damage to the paper. Adhesive residue can be difficult to remove and may require specialized treatment by a professional conservator.

Insect Damage:

Insects such as beetles, moths, and silverfish can infest ephemera items made from organic materials such as paper or cardboard. Insect damage can include holes, feeding trails, and frass (insect waste), which can compromise the structural integrity of the item.

Water Damage:

Exposure to water or moisture can cause staining, warping, and mold growth on paper-based ephemera items. Water damage can be particularly problematic for items that were not originally intended to be water-resistant.

Loss of Original Features:

Loss of original features, such as text, images, or graphics, can occur due to damage, deterioration, or intentional alterations. Missing or damaged areas can compromise the integrity and authenticity of the item and may require careful restoration.

Handling and Storage Damage:

Improper handling and storage practices can contribute to damage and deterioration of ephemera items over time. Items that are mishandled, improperly stored, or exposed to harmful environmental conditions are at greater risk of damage and degradation.

Ephemera: Storage and Materials Guidance

Archival-Quality Storage Materials:

Use archival-quality storage materials such as acid-free folders, boxes, and sleeves to protect ephemera from deterioration caused by acidic materials. Archival-quality materials are pH-neutral and lignin-free, reducing the risk of damage to the items over time.

Flat Storage:

Store ephemera items flat rather than folded or rolled to minimize stress on the paper and prevent creasing, tearing, or warping. Use flat storage boxes or portfolios with acid-free interleaving paper to support and protect the items.

Individual Enclosures:

Store each ephemera item in its own protective enclosure, such as an acid-free sleeve or envelope, to prevent physical contact and minimize the risk of damage from handling, dust, and light exposure.

Climate-Controlled Environment:

Store ephemera in a climate-controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels to prevent damage from fluctuations in environmental conditions. Ideal conditions are around 65-70°F (18-21°C) and 40-50% relative humidity.

Dark Storage:

Store ephemera items in dark or low-light conditions to minimize exposure to light, particularly ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which can cause fading and discoloration over time. Use opaque storage containers or cabinets to protect items from light exposure.

Proper Handling Procedures:

Handle ephemera items with clean hands and avoid touching the surfaces of the items directly to prevent oils, dirt, and moisture from transferring to the paper. Use gloves or clean cotton gloves when handling delicate or valuable items.

Vertical Storage:

Store ephemera items vertically rather than horizontally to minimize stress on the paper and prevent creasing or bending. Use acid-free folders or boxes with dividers to support and organize items within storage containers.

Labeling and Cataloging:

Label and catalog ephemera items to facilitate identification, retrieval, and organization. Use archival-quality labels and markers to avoid damage to the items, and maintain detailed records of each item's provenance, condition, and storage location.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance:

Conduct regular inspections of stored ephemera items to check for signs of damage, deterioration, or pest infestation. Address any issues promptly to prevent further damage and ensure the long-term preservation of the items.

Security Measures:

Implement security measures such as locked storage cabinets, surveillance cameras, and restricted access controls to protect ephemera items from theft, vandalism, or unauthorized handling. Store valuable or high-risk items in secure locations or vaults for additional protection.