



ECHS Donation Policy (revised 2022)

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING DONATING TO THE MUSEUM?

Welcome!

The Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society thanks you for your interest in donating to our museum. Acquiring new items allows us to constantly update the visitor experience. Your donations allow us to tell the history of our area, as well as the story of our families, places of worship, schools, and institutions. When our historical society and museum were founded, local families and museum members donated the items that became the core of our museum collections. We highly value your donation.

To fulfill our mission, we accept a variety of materials and artifacts to use for exhibitions, research, and hands-on education. The Museum follows the ethical guidelines for acquiring artifacts established by the American Alliance of Museums. The Museum reviews every donation offer to determine whether it supports our mission and meets collection criteria.

Contacting the Museum Regarding Donations

We would love to talk with you to find out more about your piece of history. Contact the museum at 704-436-6612 or email (preferred) us at museum@echsworld.org to discuss potential donations. Someone from our acquisitions committee will be in touch with you. Please include as much about the item(s) as possible in the email, especially about its history. If possible, please also provide images along with an estimate of the quantity and the object's physical condition.

What We Collect

The Museum selectively and responsibly collects items related (but not limited to) Eastern Cabarrus County, Cabarrus County, Mount Pleasant, NC, its local businesses, the history of our institution and local genealogy. Due to space limitations, we are selective in what we accept into our collection and consider the following:

- Relevance to our mission
- If the item is already represented in the collection
- Uniqueness
- Storage and display considerations and limitations
- Staff resources
- Condition

What We Do NOT Collect

General antiques, unless they are connected with local history, families, businesses, or institutions. Feel free to contact the museum and we can discuss your item and determine if it

fits our needs. Some items, although not necessarily local, may be representative of period artifacts that may have been used in the area (such as a 1930s radio or woodworking tools).

Mailed or Dropped Off Donations

We reserve the right not to accept unsolicited items. The Museum does our best to contact the sender and return unsolicited items to them. If no donor information is available, the items will be disposed of. The Museum is not responsible for any items left at the museum, or mailed, without prior approval of a museum representative.

If an Offer is Accepted

The museum will provide a Deed of Gift form to the donor. We will collect the donor information and the deed of gift form will be signed by both parties. Then the artifact will be accessioned (cataloged and preserved) into our collection. Once items have been accessioned, a museum representative will complete the Deed of Gift, sign it on behalf of the Museum, and return a copy to the donor for their records. The museum does not provide a value estimate on the Deed of Gift.

The Museum cannot guarantee that any item we accept will be placed on exhibition. Like many museums, we can only display only a portion of our collection at any time. This allows us to rotate items, providing for a new visitor experience every time you return to the museum.

Offers must be unconditional donated gifts without restrictions, and free and clear of all encumbrances. Once an item is donated, the museum maintains the ability to sell, loan or gift it as needed. That may include selling for cash or trading with another institution in order to fulfill their needs.

If an Offer is Declined

If an offer does not meet our criteria, it will be declined and other suitable institutions may be suggested. Should the Museum have physical custody of an offer when it is declined, we will either return the items to the donor or dispose of them with prior permission. We will not forward the items to other institutions.

Loans

The museum only accepts short term loans for the specific purpose of exhibition for a predetermined amount of time.

Long term and third party loans will not be accepted as they are a significant burden on museum staff and are contrary to museum ethics and best practices.

Many Thanks!

Thanks for considering trusting your treasures and heirlooms with us. The Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization consisting of local history enthusiasts. We do not receive public funding. Your donations allow a cost-effective way to display items our visitors will find educational and interesting.

