

## Tiering Example: Vermont Historical Society's Grading System

Vermont Historical Society uses a points-based grading system instead of a tier chart. However, these systems are based on the same concepts. The grading system allows VHS to emphasize the object's connection to the state of Vermont when assessing how it fits into the collection. The grading system can be used on objects already in the collection to determine how they serve the mission as well as objects being assessed for possible accession into the collection.

Because the system is standardized, the determined letter grade of the object will not change over time unless the Society's mission changes, the object's condition significantly degrades, or there is a catastrophic change in the market, meaning the grade can continue to be used for later evaluations.

### Points assigned for:

- Vermont History
  - 90-60 points with Vermont story/connection
  - 0 points if it doesn't have a Vermont story/connection
- Condition
  - 5 to 10 points.
    - Points are subtracted for objects in poor/destroyed condition
- Extra Credit
  - 5 points for rarity
  - 20 points in an object contributes to telling the stories of a disenfranchised or underrepresented group.

Note: while the letter grades are assigned on a 100-point scale, it is theoretically possible for an exceptional object to receive a total of 115 points.

### Grade A: 90-100 points

Kept without question. Objects with known Vermont histories that tell compelling stories and are in exhibitable condition.

### Grade B: 80-90 points

Most likely kept. Objects that receive this grade will generally either have known Vermont histories that tell compelling stories but may have condition problems, or objects with less-compelling Vermont histories but are in good condition.

### **Grade C: 70-80 points**

These objects are in the lowest tier of those to be kept, or the highest tier of those to be deaccessioned. Hardest to define, but most likely have multiple insufficiencies in their stories/provenance and condition.

### **Grade D: 60-70 points**

These objects will most likely be deaccessioned. May be common objects with Vermont provenances that do not contribute to stories and are in poor condition, or objects with possible Vermont provenances that are in poor condition.

### **Grade F: Below 60 points**

These objects should be deaccessioned unless they are the only representative example of an aspect of Vermont life or are important and rare comparison pieces. Objects receiving this grade will largely be objects outside of our mission or objects that have been destroyed.

### **Duplicate Items**

An Object can be considered duplicated within the collection for several reasons: it is identical in all senses to another object; it tells the same story in the same way as another object; it does not benefit from being part of a larger collection of like items. Exception to this can arise as the Museum pushes to create collections of like items, such as beer bottles or political signs. Whether an object is duplicated within the collection does not affect its letter grade.