

Arizona America250 Commission
History, Heritage & Historic Preservation Subcommittee
Virtually via Zoom
Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2025

1. Call to order and welcome.

Chair Harder called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Subcommittee Voting Members Present:

Ashley Harder, Chair
Eric Vondy
Stuart Rosebrook

Helana Ruter
David Turpie
Caitlin Dichter

Margaret Hangan
J.J. Lamb
Kathryn Leonard

1. Call to order, roll call, and welcome. 1002 h.

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from June 25, 2025. Ashley Harder motioned, Caitlin Dichter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Informational member presentation on their organization and/or 2026 plans. Carolyn Rearley updated the group on preservation projects in Northern Arizona by the DAR. JJ Lamb spoke about a commemorative plaque to be dedicated at the Presidio later this year and other projects in southern Arizona. Chair Harder gave an update about the search for a PR firm to be hired by the commission and encouraged members to share with her and ED Terech events that they are planning. Ginger Thompson from the Presidio shared that they will be using the Fort Lowell Museum for America250 events and commemorations and gave details about an adobe workshop. Caitlin Dichter gave an update on a webinar that S'edav Va'aki will be hosting around America250 to create awareness. Stuart Rosebrook provided an update regarding the territorial governor's mansion at the Sharlot Hall Museum – they were given \$500K by the state to help with preservation efforts.

4. Updates, discussion and possible action on projects and initiatives relating to history, historic preservation, and heritage for the Semiquincentennial. Chair Harder asked ED Terech to add legacy projects to the standing update list.

a. Interpretation document for events and educational materials. Chair Harder said that they are still taking in feedback and have gotten a lot of wonderful suggestions so far. The group is working to incorporate Indigenous history and Spanish Colonial history. No revisions were presented to the group today. She hopes that the work on this document will be done by August.

b. Passport250. ED Terech gave an update on this initiative. The pass will likely go live very shortly (by the end of this month). The first 25 sites have been selected, and they represent the entire state. The Commission wants Arizonans to participate in this and have asked people to make further suggestions. The ED invited the subcommittee to share their suggestions, as well.

c. Route 66 Centennial. Stuart Rosebrook provided information about what the Sharlot Hall Museum would like to do to celebrate this centennial. He spoke about Grace Sparks and the creation of Route 89. Kathryn Leonard gave an update on Route 66 initiatives. Kickoff will be in October. Lillian Hritz spoke about uniting the centennial celebrations for all the US highways in AZ.

d. May Hicks House preservation. Lauren Clementino reported that the Secretary of State visited last week. ED Terech reports that a link to the May Hicks House is on the A250 website.

e. Member share out on events across the state.

5. Discussion and possible action on subcommittee membership and future meeting dates. Next meeting is on 21 August at 1000 h.

6. Call to the public. No public members brought anything forward.

7. Adjournment. 11:00am.