



www.sharlot.org

Prescott's Sharlot Hall Museum Animates Arizona History

For more than 80 years, Prescott's Sharlot Hall Museum has been an eye-catching landmark, a focal point of the local community, a model of civic tourism, and a significant contributor to the area's economy. Its unique mix of historic buildings, galleries, research center, living history village, and Chautauqua theater presentations has accorded it iconic status throughout Arizona.

Sharlot Hall Museum is named after its founder, [Sharlot Mabridth Hall](#) (1870-1943), who made her mark as a poet, activist, politician, and Arizona's first territorial historian. Sharlot Hall was one of the West's most remarkable women. In 1909, she was appointed Territorial Historian and became the first woman to hold territorial office. In 1927, she began restoring the first Territorial Governor's residence and offices as a home for her extensive collection of pioneer and Native American artifacts and documents and opened it as a museum a year later. For the remainder of her life, Ms. Hall worked to preserve Arizona's historic past.



The Museum grew up around the site of the [Governor's Mansion](#), which is the oldest building associated with Arizona Territory still standing on its original location. The log cabin structure (a "mansion" only in contrast to the tents, wagon boxes, and smaller log cabins in which most of Prescott's citizens were then living) was built in 1864 for Arizona Territorial Governor John Goodwin. Today it anchors a four-acre campus featuring a collection of historic buildings, a modern Library & Archives, exhibit galleries, restful gardens, an outdoor amphitheater, and the [Blue Rose Theater](#) where original historical plays are presented throughout the year.



The Museum prides itself on its magnificent collection of more than 400 Native American baskets, over half more than 100 years old. The [basket collection](#), a portion of which is on public display in the Hartzell Room of the Sharlot Hall Building, features examples from a number of tribes. Collection highlights include an Anasazi bifurcated basket dating back some 800 years, infant bassinets woven by Mary Jones (aka Mary of Peoples Valley) and a Yavapai basket used in a popular tribal game.

Until someone invents a working time machine, Sharlot Hall Museum will continue to fill the void with its [Living History program](#). The Museum's Living History interpreters include staff, local volunteers and special program volunteers from around the state dressed in period costumes and using the Museum's historic buildings and artifacts to transport visitors to the 19th Century. The Museum's extensive training program for interpreters emphasizes accuracy as it acquaints them with life in territorial Arizona.

The Museum presents four major heritage festivals each year. The [Folk Arts Fair](#) (first weekend in June) is a family-oriented celebration of old-time skills and entertainment that emphasizes education rather than commerce. The [Prescott Indian Art Market](#) (second weekend in July), one of the West's premier Indian art markets, features outstanding Native American jewelers, painters, potters, weavers, bead and leatherworkers, and sculptors displaying and selling their wares. The [Folk Music Festival](#) (first weekend in October) is the state's oldest such gathering and features multiple stages complemented by impromptu jam sessions throughout the museum grounds. The [Frontier Christmas](#) celebration on the first Saturday of December offers guests the warmth and simplicity of Christmas past.

In partnership with the Museum, the [Blue Rose Theater](#) produces original historic plays, often from Sharlot M. Hall's poetry and writings. The plays by local writers are based on extensive research and careful attention to accuracy. Musical offerings and workshops for children, who learn a wide variety of life lessons from their experiences, form a major part of this creative venture.

SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM

415 W. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-3122 • www.sharlot.org

Hours

May- September: Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday noon-4
October-April: Monday-Saturday 10-4, Sunday noon-4
Closed January 1, Thanksgiving and Christmas

FORT WHIPPLE MUSEUM

Veterans Administration Hospital Campus, Hwy. 89, Prescott, AZ 86301



[The Fort Whipple Museum](#), a joint project of the Sharlot Hall Museum and the Bob Stump Veterans Affairs Medical Center, is located on the grounds of the VA Hospital in Prescott. Housed in one of the 1905 military officer's quarters, the Museum traces the history of Fort Whipple with exhibits that include medical instruments, Army weaponry, America's Buffalo Soldiers, maps and photographs. The museum staff presents quarterly living history programs highlighting Arizona's military history that are both entertaining and educational.

Hours

10-4 Thursday, Friday and Saturday; closed January 1, Thanksgiving and Christmas