

# History of Gruene



Arriving in Texas in the mid-1840s, German farmers became the first settlers of what is now known as

Gruene, Texas. A German immigrant, Ernst Gruene, and his bride Antoinette, had reached the newly established city of New Braunfels in 1845, but acreage was scarce. Thus, Ernst and his two sons purchased land just down river, and Ernst built the first home in Gruene (37) in early fachwerk style. His second son, Henry D. Gruene, built his home (1) and planted his surrounding land with cotton. Having become the number one cash crop, the cotton business soon brought 20 to 30 families to Gruene's lands.



Gruene built houses in various styles—a Victorian cottage (29), a large brick home (38), and a frame house (39) for the foreman of his farm. The first mercantile store (23) was built in 1878 and a cotton gin (9) powered by the Guadalupe River was added soon after. Further construction during this profitable time included a dance hall (11) and saloon—Gruene Hall—which became the center of the community's social life.

As the town continued to prosper, a new mercantile building (4) sprang up in 1904. However, the death of Henry D. in 1920 marked the downfall of Gruene's development and good fortune. In 1922, the original cotton gin burned and was replaced down the road by a modern electric model (6). Yet, the economic disasters of the boll weevil and the Depression were too much for the family businesses and they went under, except for Gruene Hall, which never closed.



It was not until 1974–75, when much of the Gruene estate was sold, that new purchasers arrived. New businesses were established and all of Gruene was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, Gruene is once again a thriving community, and as citizens of Gruene, we welcome you to come out and walk around; enjoy our rich history. But most of all, enjoy your visit.

## GRUENE SPECIAL EVENTS

**GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH A TEXAS TWIST**—The Gristmill caters. 2nd Sundays, February to December in Gruene Hall. [gruenehall.com](http://gruenehall.com)

**COME AND TASTE IT**—Meet Texas' best winemakers. Complimentary wine and food pairings. Live music. 3rd Thursdays, February to December at The Grapevine. [grapevineingruene.com](http://grapevineingruene.com)

**GRUENE MARKET DAYS** and **CHRISTMAS MARKET**—100 vendors feature handmade crafts and packaged Texas foods. Every 3rd weekend, February to November and the 1st weekend in December. 830-832-1721 [gruenemarketdays.com](http://gruenemarketdays.com)

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB**—KNBT broadcasts from Gruene Hall. Prize Giveaways. Fridays, March to September. 830-606-1281 [gruenehall.com](http://gruenehall.com)

**AMERICANA MUSIC JAM**—Celebration of Americana music in Gruene Hall. Benefiting local charities. May. 830-629-5077 [gruenetexas.com](http://gruenetexas.com)

**TWO TON TUESDAYS & SWING DANCE LESSONS**—Tuesdays, June to Mid-August in Gruene Hall. 830-629-5077 [gruenetexas.com](http://gruenetexas.com)

**GRUENE 10K**—2nd Saturday in September. [athleteguild.com](http://athleteguild.com)

**GRUENE MUSIC & WINE FEST**—An array of Texas music, wine and beer events benefiting United Way. Columbus Day weekend in October. 830-629-5077 [grueneusicandwinefest.org](http://grueneusicandwinefest.org)

**TEXAS CLAY FESTIVAL**—Texas potters display, sell their wares and demonstrate a variety of techniques. Kid's activities. 4th weekend in October. 830-629-7975 [texasclayfestival.com](http://texasclayfestival.com)

**TOUR DE GRUENE**—A bicycle tour and race benefiting local charities. 1st weekend of Wurstfest. 210-862-3524 [tourdegruene.com](http://tourdegruene.com)

**HOLIDAYS IN GRUENE**—Celebrate everyday for 6 weeks! Gruene Turkey Trot, Pony Express Ride, Christmas Market Days, Photos with Cowboy Kringle, Town Lighting, Jingle Bell Run and more! Mid-November to New Year's Weekend. 830-629-5077 [holidaysingruene.com](http://holidaysingruene.com)

Gruene Hall Events: 830-606-1281 [gruenehall.com](http://gruenehall.com)  
General Info: 830-629-5077 [gruenetexas.com](http://gruenetexas.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/gruenetx](https://www.facebook.com/gruenetx)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/gruenetx](https://twitter.com/gruenetx)

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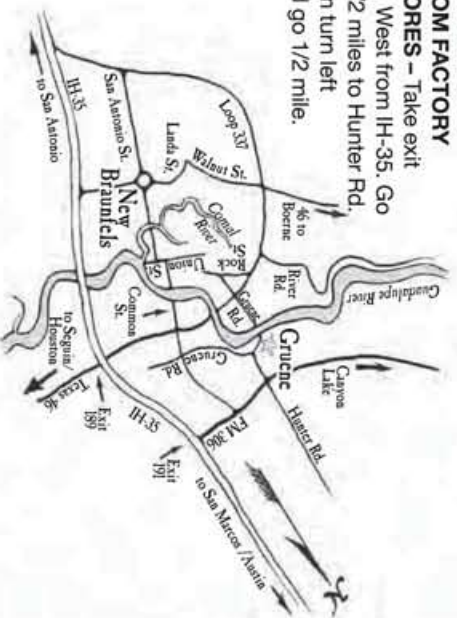


# GRUENE

## Historic District

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# At the Water Tower



**JUST MINUTES FROM FACTORY STORES** – Take exit 191 West from IH-35. Go 1 1/2 miles to Hunter Rd, then turn left and go 1/2 mile.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### ANTIQUES

- (1) **GRUENE MANSION INN** A premier B&B with 30 rooms for HD Gruene's home, carriage house, corn crib and barns. Rustic Victorian elegance and a delightful breakfast. 830-629-2641 [gruenemansioninn.com](http://gruenemansioninn.com)
- (2) **BLACK SWAN ANTIQUES** Old World antiques & collectibles shipped directly from England and Europe, complemented by unique furnishings & gifts for the discerning shopper. 830-625-7122
- (3) **CACTUS JACKS FURNITURE & FINE ART GALLERY** Beautiful handmade & antique furniture, original Texas artwork. Fine decor items, gifts, gourmet foods & Vera Bradley. 830-620-9602 [cactusjacksgruene.com](http://cactusjacksgruene.com)
- (4) **THE GRUENE ANTIQUE COMPANY** 6,500 sq. ft. of antiques & collectibles. Housed in H.D. Gruene's TX Landmark mercantile building (c.1903) with original bank vault. 830-629-7781 [grueneantiqueco.com](http://grueneantiqueco.com)

### DAY SPAS

- (5) **GRUENE DAY SPA** Relax, rejuvenate, revitalize. Massage, couples massage, facials, manicures & pedicures all await you in this tranquil atmosphere. Spa packages & gift certificates available. 830-387-4618 [gruenedayspa.com](http://gruenedayspa.com)

## RESTAURANTS, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

- (6) **ADOBE VERDE** Gruene's 1922 electric gin is where you satisfy your taste buds with great Mexican food, seafood, chicken fried steak, margaritas and mixed drinks in an A/C cantina or on an outside deck. 830-629-0777
- (7) **CANTINA DEL RIO** Fashioned after a South Texas ice house. Tasty tacos & juicy Texas burgers, nachos special! eat! Frozen 'itas, premium tequilas, sangria & ice cold beer. Outdoor deck dining & bar. 830-515-1950 [cantinadelrio.gruene.com](http://cantinadelrio.gruene.com)
- (8) **PICKLE PICKLES ANTIQUES & PICKLES** As seen in Southern Living magazine. Offering a mix of antiques along with a complimentary sample of our famous Pickle Pickles. 830-627-8999
- (9) **GRISTMILL RIVER RESTAURANT & BAR** Since 1977. Unique Texas-style dining in an 1870s cotton gin beneath the water tower on the Guadalupe River. 830-625-0884 [gristmillrestaurant.com](http://gristmillrestaurant.com)
- (10) **GRUENE COFFEE HAUS** Full espresso bar, gourmet coffee, fruit smoothies, free WiFi, TV and ATM and unique gifts. Open Sun-6pm. Come on in for a "perk" me up! 830-625-5527 [gruenecoffee.com](http://gruenecoffee.com)
- (11) **GRUENE HALL** Texas' oldest dance hall where George Strait, Lyte Lovett and Hal Ketchum got started! Featuring the best in live Texas and Americana music every day, round, 'round. 830-606-1281 [gruenehall.com](http://gruenehall.com)
- (12) **MOZIE'S** Original food. Cool bar. Premium well liquors, select wines & specialty beers. All day menu of favorite American classics. Sports TVs & air conditioning! 830-515-1281 [mozie'satgruene.com](http://mozie'satgruene.com)
- (13) **RIVER HOUSE TEA ROOM** Casual dining experience inside or umbrella dining outside. Choose from a selection of lovely salads, homemade soups, marble bread sandwiches or grilled specialties. 830-608-0890

## RIVER OUTFITTERS

- (14) **GRUENE RIVER CO.** Raft and tube trips on the Guadalupe River and tubing on the Comal River. River supplies, beverages, snacks, restaurants and showers. 830-625-2800 [grueneriverco.com](http://grueneriverco.com)

## SPECIALTY SHOPS

- (15) **ROCKIN' R' RIVER RIDES** Raftin', toobin', kayakin', campin', showers, RV's, caterin', transportation, corporate events, property rental, river gear, souvenirs, etc.... On the Guadalupe & Comal Rivers. 1-800-55-FLDART [rockinr.com](http://rockinr.com)
- (16) **BUCK POTTERY** Celebrating 30 years of hand crafting pottery. Come see a craftsman at work. Also showing the handwork of other skilled potters, jewelers, metal smiths and wood workers. 830-629-7975 [buckpottery.com](http://buckpottery.com)
- (17) **COTTON EYED JOES** Sleazebag in Gruene's rustic atmosphere, you'll find a great collection of Texas and Gruene-themed gifts, souvenirs and, of course, t-shirts! 830-606-1995 [cottoneyedjoes.com](http://cottoneyedjoes.com)
- (18) **DANCING BEAR** Unique Collectibles: Jim Shore, Willow Tree, Weckizer. Specialty foods, jewelry, crosses, candles, purses, t-shirts, signs. Visit our gardens. 830-629-2059
- (19) **ELEMENT 29** Apparel, accessories, decor & more. There's nothing ordinary about this boutique. Unique, locally designed & printed t-shirts for all ages, original items for the home, jewelry & gifts. 830-625-2929 [element29.com](http://element29.com)
- (20) **GALLERIE AT GRUENE** Contemporary fine art created by six local artists. Paintings, stone sculpture, pottery and handcrafted jewelry. (830) 626-6250 [gallerieatgruene.com](http://gallerieatgruene.com)
- (21) **GIDDYUP GRUENE** Texas western chic for women and men. Boots, apparel, hats and more. Open daily. 830-627-0613
- (22) **GOT TOYS** An eclectic mix of toys and gifts for ages 0-102. 830-620-4700 [grueneutoys.com](http://grueneutoys.com)
- (23) **GRUENE GENERAL STORE** Selected as one of the 40 best places to visit in Texas: soda fountain, homemade hodge, Texas foods, unusual gifts, books, cards, antiques, signs and tins in a nostalgic setting. (830) 629-6021
- (24) **GRUENE GRANITE & IRON COMPANY** Specializing in exotic granite and iron furniture. Unique handmade one of a kind pieces, home decor & gifts. Truly Gruene's hidden treasure. 830-625-0400 [gruenegraniteandiron.com](http://gruenegraniteandiron.com)
- (25) **GRUENE OUTFITTERS** Top line outdoor wear, fresh and saltwater fly tackle, footwear and fine accessories such as hats, sunglasses and travel gear. Fly fishing lessons. 830-625-4440 [grueneoutfitters.com](http://grueneoutfitters.com)
- (26) **GRUENE WITH ENVY** Spirited apparel, shoes, jewelry and accessories. The look you're looking for. 830-627-0612 [gruenewithenvyboutique.com](http://gruenewithenvyboutique.com)
- (27) **GRUENEWERKS** Leasing commercial space in Gruene. 830-708-4446
- (28) **HUNTER JUNCTION** Since 1981 – Gruene's first retail shop. Suppliers of quality t-shirts, sportswear, gifts and souvenirs. Located in the 1854 Rudolf du Merrill building. Open daily-year round. 830-629-4900
- (29) **LONE STAR** Featuring an eclectic blend of Texas-inspired gifts! Candles made in Tyler, Texas, jewelry and accessories for men, women and tweens, furniture & home decor. 830-609-1613 [lonestarngruene.com](http://lonestarngruene.com)
- (30) **NATURAL SELECTIONS** Located in the Casa de Pablo Lopez. Specializing in rocks, fossils, jewelry, antiques from abroad with arrowheads & artifacts, including home accents, framed art & unique gifts with a Texas twist. 830-627-2822
- (31) **POOKIE JANE'S** A boutique filled with women's apparel, jewelry, shoes, gifts & much more! Home of the original "NANCY" - Find Pookie Jane's on Facebook. 830-626-6446
- (32) **SMILING EYES PHOTO GALLERY** Old time photos since 1975. Award winning western themed portraits. Costumes & props provided. Individuals, couples, families and groups. 830-629-7474 [smilingeyesphoto.com](http://smilingeyesphoto.com)
- (33) **TEXAS HOMEGROWN** Offering sassy ladies clothing, a loaded purse room, handcrafted jewelry, items with a Texas flare, crosses and charms. Home of the \$6.99 earrings. Open daily. 830-629-3176 [txhomegrown.com](http://txhomegrown.com)
- (34) **THE GREAT TEXAS PECAN CANDY CO.** Handmade Pecan Candies. 830-627-3343 [thegreatpecan.com](http://thegreatpecan.com)
- (35) **TIPSY GYPSY** A fun and funky boutique for women featuring imported clothing from around the world, gifts, purses, biker gear, lighted toys, red hats and whimsical sunglasses. 830-625-4431 [tipsygypsyatgruene.com](http://tipsygypsyatgruene.com)

## WINE TASTING

- (36) **THE GRAPEVINE** Complimentary daily tastings of 20+ wines; large selection of Texas, New World & German wines, specialty beers, champagnes, wine gifts & decor. Outdoor porch, patio & garden. 830-606-0093 [grapevineatgruene.com](http://grapevineatgruene.com)

