

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 (35) 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 (26), a large brick home (36), and a frame house (20) for the foreman of his farm. The first mercantile store (19) was built in 1878 and a cotton gin (7) powered by the Guadalupe River was added soon after. Further construction during this profitable time included a dance hall (9) 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 (5). 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 — Every second Sunday except January in Gruene Hall. gruenehall.com

GRUENE MARKET DAYS and CHRISTMAS MARKET — 100 vendors feature handmade crafts and Texas foods every third weekend, February through November and the first weekend in December. (830) 832-1721 gruenemarketdays.com

AMERICANA MUSIC JAM — Celebration of Americana music in Gruene Hall. Benefiting children's charities. Third Sunday in May.

TEXAS METAL ARTS FESTIVAL — Featuring Texas' best metal artists. Second weekend in September. (903) 852-3311 texasmetalarts.com

GRUENE MUSIC AND WINE FEST — An array of Texas music and wine events benefiting United Way. Columbus Day weekend in October. (830) 629-5077 gruenemusicandwinefest.org

ANNUAL SALSA FESTIVAL — October. (830) 629-0777

TEXAS CLAY FESTIVAL — Renowned Texas potters display and sell their wares and demonstrate a variety of techniques. Hands-on activities for kids. Fourth weekend in October. (830) 629-7975 texasclayfestival.com

TOUR DE GRUENE — A bicycle tour and race benefiting local New Braunfels charities. First weekend in November. (210) 862-3524 tourdegruene.com

GRUENE TURKEY TROT — 5k run/walk and 1/4 mile kids turkey chase. Thanksgiving Day. comalecopsforkids.org

GRUENE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION — Pony Express Ride, Christmas Market Days, Cowboy Kingle Photos & Kids' Workshop and Town Lighting. First weekend in December. (830) 629-5077 holidayingruene.com

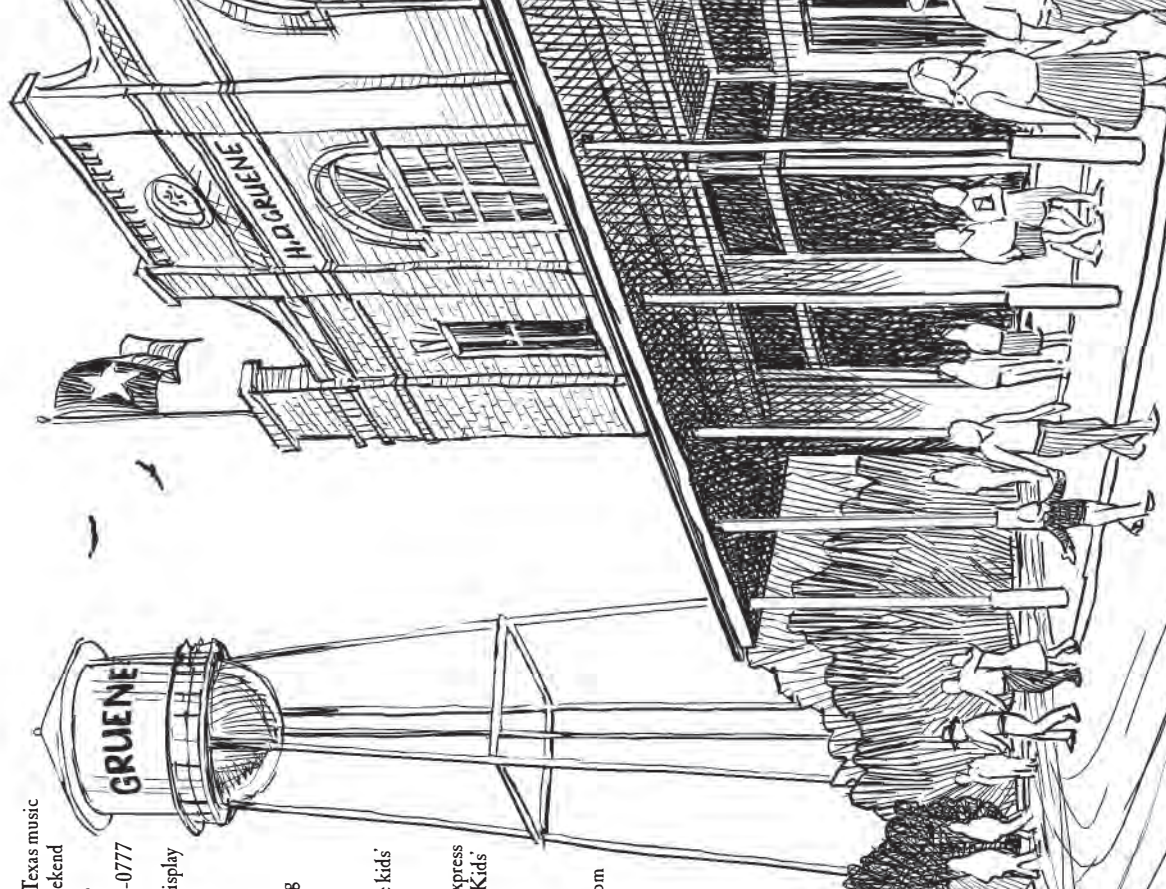
Gruene Hall Events: (830) 606-1281/gruenehall.com

General Info: (830) 629-5077/gruenetexas.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/gruenetx](https://www.facebook.com/gruenetx)

Twitter: twitter.com/gruenetx

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Historic Gruene

Gently resisting change since 1872

JUST MINUTES FROM FACTORY STORES

– Take exit 191 West from IH-35
1 1/2 miles to Hunter Rd.
then turn left
and go 1/2 mile.



ACCOMMODATIONS

(1) **GRUENE MANSION INN** A premier B&B with 30 rooms from HD Gruene's home, carriage house, corn crib and barns. Rustic Victorian elegance and a delightful breakfast. (830) 629-2641 www.gruene mansioninn.com

ANTIQUES

- (2) **BLACK SWAN ANTIQUES** Old World antiques & collectibles shipped directly from England and Europe. Furniture, porcelain, stoneware, copper, bottles, books, McCalls Country Candles & more. (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 www.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 www.grueneantiqueco.com

RESTAURANTS, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

- (5) **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
- (6) **FICKLE PICKLES ANTIQUES & PICKLES** As seen in Southern Living magazine. Offers a unique blend of interesting antiques & one of the best pickle recipes you've ever tasted. (830) 627-8999
- (7) **GRISTMILL RIVER RESTAURANT & BAR** Since 1977. Unique Texas-style dining in an 1870s cotton gin beneath the water tower on the Guadalupe River. (830) 625-0684 www.gristmillrestaurant.com
- (8) **GRUENE COFFEE HAUS** Full espresso bar, gourmet coffee, fruit smoothies, free WiFi, TV and ATM and unique gifts. Open 8am-6pm. Come on in for a "perk" me up! (830) 625-5527 www.gruenecoffee.com
- (9) **GRUENE HALL** Texas' oldest dance hall where George Strait, Lyle Lovett and Hal Ketchum got started! Featuring the best in live Texas and Americana music. Open daily. (830) 606-1281 www.gruenehall.com
- (10) **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 www.moziesbarandgrill.com
- (11) **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) 608-0690

RIVER OUTFITTERS

- (12) **GRUENE RIVER CO.** Raft and tube trips on the Guadalupe River and tubing on the Comal River. River supplies, beverages, snacks, restrooms and showers. (830) 625-2800 www.grueneriverco.com
- (13) **ROCKIN' 'R'** Raft & tub trips for all ages on Guadalupe & Comal Rivers; professional guides, souvenirs, river gear, restrooms, showers, full hook-ups. (830) 629-9999/1-800-55FLOAT www.rockinr.com

SPECIALTY SHOPS

- (14) **BUCK POTTERY** Located in a "turn of the century" barn, featuring locally handcrafted pottery as well as other fine craft work. Come see a craftsman at work. (830) 629-7975 www.buckpottery.com
- (15) **COTTON EYED JOE'S** Steeped 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 www.cottoneyedjoes.com
- (16) **DANCING BEAR** Unique Collectables: Jim Shore, Willow Tree, Webkinz. Specialty foods, jewelry, crosses, candles, purses, t-shirts, signs. Visit our gardens. (830) 629-2059.
- (17) **GALLERIE AT GRUENE** Contemporary fine art created by seven local artists. Paintings, stone sculpture, pottery and handcrafted jewelry. (830) 626-6250 www.gallerieatgruene.com
- (18) **GOT TOYS** An eclectic mix of toys and gifts for ages 0-102. (830) 620-4700
- (19) **GRUENE GENERAL STORE** Selected as one of the 40 best places to visit in Texas: soda fountain, homemade fudge, Texas foods, unusual gifts, books, cards, antiques, signs and tins in a nostalgic setting. (830) 629-6021
- (20) **GRUENE HAUS** A Texas gift store featuring unique gifts and daily sampling of salsas, jellies, honeybutter, pickled products, mustards, dipping oils and more. (830) 620-7454
- (21) **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 www.grueneoutfitters.com
- (22) **GRUENE WITH ENVY** Spirited apparel, shoes, jewelry and accessories. The look you're looking for. (830) 627-0612
- (23) **GRUENEWERKS** Leasing commercial space in Gruene. (830) 708-4446
- (24) **HUNTER JUNCTION** Since 1981 - Gruene's first retail shop. Suppliers of quality t-shirts, sportswear, gifts and souvenirs. Located in the 1854 Rudolph du Menil building. Open daily-year round. (830) 629-4900
- (25) **LITTLE STEPS CHILDREN'S SHOP** Baby, Maternity, Children's. A children's boutique and gift shop. A division of Stepping Stones Gift Shop. (830) 629-0349 www.littlestepscchildrensshop.com
- (26) **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 décor. (830) 609-1613 www.lonestaringruene.com
- (27) **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) 627-2922
- (28) **POOKIE JANE'S** A boutique filled with women's clothing, jewelry & shoes. Items for your home including signs, soy candles, kitchen items and many gift ideas. (830) 626-6446 www.pookiejaneshop.com
- (29) **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 www.smilingeyesphoto.com
- (30) **STEPPING STONES GIFT SHOP** Unique home furnishings and accessories, books, music & jewelry. Don't miss our new "Little Steps" children's collection. Open Tuesday-Sunday. www.steppingstonesgiftshop.com (830) 625-3227
- (31) **TEXAS HOMEGROWN** Offering sassy ladies clothing, a loaded purse room, handcrafted jewelry, items with a Texas flare, crosses and chimes. Home of the \$5.99 earrings. Open 7 days a week. www.texas-homegrown.com
- (32) **THE GREAT TEXAS PECAN CANDY CO.** Handmade Pecan Candies. (830) 627-3343 www.texaspecancandy.com
- (33) **TIPSY GYPSY** A fun and funky boutique for women featuring imported clothing from around the world and gifts, accessories and décor from Mexico. (830) 625-4431 www.tipsygyppysite.com

WINE TASTING

(34) **THE GRAPEVINE** Taste and take home some of the best wines Texas has to offer. Specialty beers, cigars, gourmet gifts and food, and wine accessories for the home. (830) 606-0093 www.grapevineingruene.com

