

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 (36) 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 (33), a large brick home (37), and a frame house (32) for the foreman of his farm. The first mercantile store (21) 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 (3) 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 (38). 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 this lively, inspiring event. 2nd Sundays, February to December in Gruene Hall. 830-629-5077 gruenehall.com

COME AND TASTE IT—Meet Texas' best winemakers. Complimentary wine, craft beer and food samplings. Live music. 3rd Thursdays, February to December at The Grapevine patio. 830-606-0093 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

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB—KNBT broadcasts from Gruene Hall. Popular meet-up for locals and visitors. Happy hour prices and great prizes! Fridays, March to September/October. 830-606-1281 gruenehall.com

KINDERSCHUHE 5K RUN/WALK—Open to all ages. Benefiting Communities in Schools. First Saturday in March. 830-629-8486 nbu5k.com

AMERICANA MUSIC JAM—Celebration of Americana music in Gruene Hall. Benefiting local charities. May. 830-629-5077 gruene-texas.com

TWO TON TUESDAYS and **SWING DANCE LESSONS**—A swingin' summertime tradition. Tuesdays, June to Mid-August in Gruene Hall. 830-629-5077 gruene-texas.com

GRUENE 10K—Run/walk for all ages and abilities. Benefiting local charities. 2nd Saturday in September. 830-708-2991 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 gruenemusicandwinefest.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

CHOSEN MARATHON—Annual 5K supporting outreach and mentoring for adoption, foster and orphan care. 3rd Saturday in November at Rockin' R' River Rides. chosenmarathon.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

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

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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 to Gruene.



ACCOMMODATIONS

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

ANTIQUES

(2) **BLACK SWAN ANTIQUES** Old World antiques & collectibles shipped directly from England and Europe, complimented by unique furnishings & gifts for the discerning shopper. 830-629-7122
 (3) **THE GRUENE ANTIQUE COMPANY** 6,500 sq. ft. of antiques & collectibles. Housed in H.D. Gruene's Texas Landmark mercantile building (ca. 1904) with original bank vault. 830-629-7781 grueneantiquedeco.com

DAY SPA

(4) **GRUENE DAY SPA** Relax, rejuvenate, revitalize. Massages, couples massage, facials, manicures & pedicures all await you in this tranquil atmosphere. Spa packages & gift certificates available. 830-387-4618 gruenedayspa.com

RESTAURANTS, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

- (5) **CANTINA DEL RIO** "Best Margarita in NB" five years running! Fashioned after a South Texas ice house. Tasty tacos, juicy burritos, sizzling fajitas, etc! Premium tequila, sangria & beer. Outdoor dining & bar. 830-515-1950 cantinadelrio.com
 (6) **FICKLE PICKLES ANTIQUES & PICKLES** As seen in Southern Living magazine. Offering a mix of antiques along with a complimentary sample of our famous Fickle Pickles. 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. Seasonal live music. 830-625-0684 gristmillrestaurant.com
 (8) **GRUENE COFFEE HAUS** Specialty micro-roaster and full espresso bar offering cold brew, fresh coffee by the cup and by the pound. Not just coffee! Open 7am-7pm. Come get roasted! 830-625-5527 gruenecoffee.com along with a complimentary sample of our famous Fickle Pickles. 830-627-8999
 (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 every day year 'round. 830-608-1281 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 mozie.com
 (11) **THE GRUENE OLIVE TASTING ROOM** Sample over 50 different flavors of ultra premium virgin olive oils & balsamic vinegar fresh from the tap. Great gifts. Private tasting parties available. 830-632-5170 grueneolive.com
 (12) **THE RIVER HOUSE** Locally sourced, farm fresh restaurant just off the beaten path on New Braunfels St. A proper eatery for those who love Southern cuisine with an upscale twist. Patio and indoor seating. 830-608-0690

RIVER OUTFITTERS

(13) **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 gruenerivercompany.com

(14) **ROCKIN' 'R' RIVER RIDES** Rafting, tubing, kayakin, campin', showers, RV's, catering, transportation, corporate events, property rental, river gear, souvenirs, etc.... On the Guadalupe & Comal Rivers. 1-800-55-FLOAT rockinr.com

SPECIALTY SHOPS

- (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 cottoneyedjoes.com
 (16) **DANCING BEAR** Unique collectibles, inspirational, candles, accents, home decor, signs, specialty foods, jewelry, purses & accessories. Visit our gardens. 830-629-2029
 (17) **ELEMENT 29** There's nothing ordinary about this boutique. Design-driven apparel, accessories, decor & more. Locally designed and printed infantwear and gifts, plus a wall of uncommon socks. 830-625-2929 element29tx.com
 (18) **GALLERIE AT GRUENE** Contemporary fine art created by six local artists... Paintings, sculpture, pottery and handcrafted jewelry. 830-626-6250 galerieatgruene.net
 (19) **GOTTOYS** Not your average toy store! Carrying an eclectic mix of toys and gifts for newborns to adults. Feel young again with a variety of classic tin toys, joke items, retro games and much more. Come see the giant duck! 830-620-4700
 (20) **GRUENE EGGS & HAM CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE** A one-stop shop for the coolest kids' fashions! Millie Jay, Three Sisters, Mud Pie and more! Newborn to 6x. Like Gruene Eggs & Ham on Facebook! 830-632-5281
 (21) **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
 (22) **GRUENE OUTFITTERS** Top line outdoor wear, fresh and saltwater fly tackle, footwear and fine accessories such as hats, sunglasses and travel gear. Fly fishing seasons. 830-625-4440 grueneoutfitters.com
 (23) **GRUENE ROSE @ TEXAS HOMEGROWN** Offering classy ladies apparel, footwear, jewelry, scarves and art items with a Texas flare. Lots of pursed! Home of the \$6.99 earrings. Open daily. 830-629-3176 txhomegrown.com
 (24) **GRUENE WITH ENVY** "Fab" fashions such as Ivy Lane, Krista Lee, Double D, YellowBox and over 30 styles of Central "Cowgirl" boots. It's the look you're looking for! Open daily. Like Gruene with Envy on Facebook! 830-627-0612
 (25) **GRUENEWERKS** Leasing commercial space in Gruene. 830-708-4446
 (26) **HUNTER JUNCTION** Since 1981 - Gruene's first retail shop. Suppliers of quality t-shirts, sportswear, gifts and souvenirs. Located in the 1854 Rudolf dt. Memorial building. Open daily-year round. 830-629-4900
 (27) **NATURAL SELECTIONS** Located in the Casa de Pablo Lopez. Specializing in rocks, fossils, jewelry, antiques from around with arrowheads & artifacts. Also find home accents, framed art & unique gifts with a Texas twist. 830-627-2922
 (28) **POOKIE JANE'S** A boutique filled with women's apparel, jewelry, shoes, gifts & much more! Home of the original "MANCAVE". Like Pookie Jane's on Facebook! 830-626-6446
 (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 smilingeyesphoto.com
 (30) **THE BARN POTTERY** (Formerly Buck Pottery!) Come see a potter at work. Also showing the handwork of other skilled potters, jewelers, metal smiths and wood workers. 830-629-7975 thebarngruene.com
 (31) **THE GREAT TEXAS PECAN CANDY CO.** Handmade pecan candies. 830-627-3343 texaspecanandy.com
 (32) **THE GRUENE HAUS** A historical landmark full of fabulous Texas treasures! From trendy clothing and accessories to home decor, this small cottage has big style! Like them on Facebook! 830-837-5590 gruenehaus.com
 (33) **THE POMEGRANATE** Exceptional clothing & footwear for the local lifestyle. Boys & Girls sizes 2T - Youth XL. Ladies outdoor wear and gifts, home accessories and instant gratification. Find them on Facebook. 830-609-9790
 (34) **TIPSY GYPSY** Everything you need to complement your boho-chic lifestyle! Fair trade fashions that feel as good as they look, incense & candles that create a perfect vibe for any space and more to achieve personal zen. 830-625-4431

WINE TASTING

(35) **THE GRAPEVINE** Complimentary daily tastings; large selection of Texas wine. Craft beers on tap. New world & German wines and wine accessories. Outdoor area. Seasonal freight crammers. Live music. 830-606-0083 grapevinegruene.com

