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 (28), a large brick home (37), and a frame house (35) for the foreman of his farm. The first mercantile store (21) was built in 1878 and a cotton gin (8) powered by the Guadalupe River was added soon after. Further construction during this profitable time included a dance hall (10) 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 (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 — 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 and craft brewers. Complimentary wine, craft beer and food samplings. Live music. 3rd Thursdays, February to December at The Grapevine patio. 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. Prizes! Fridays, March to September. 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 gruenetexas.com

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

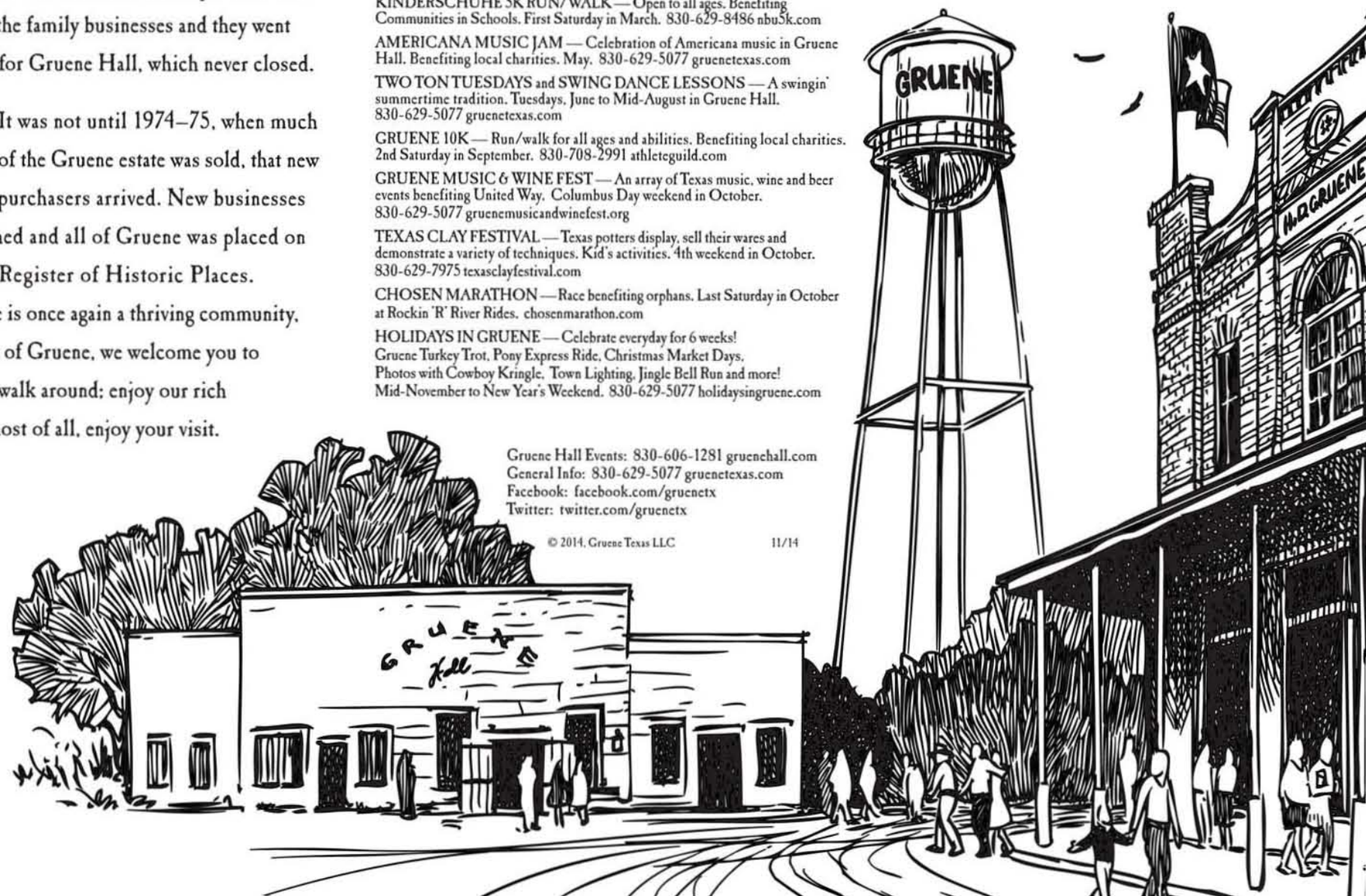
CHOSEN MARATHON — Race benefiting orphans. Last Saturday in October at Rockin 'R' River Rides. chosenmarathon.com

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

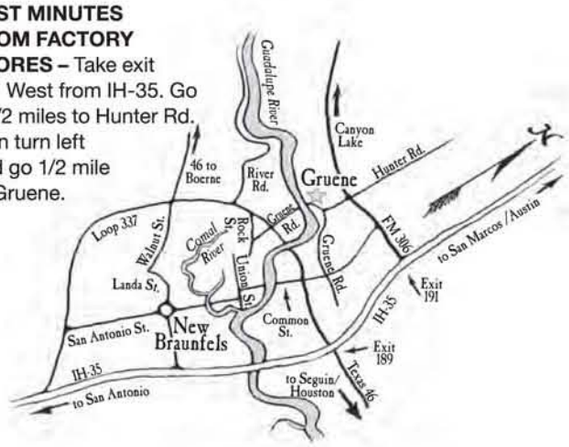
Gruene Hall Events: 830-606-1281 gruenehall.com
General Info: 830-629-5077 gruenetexas.com
Facebook: facebook.com/gruenetx
Twitter: twitter.com/gruenetx

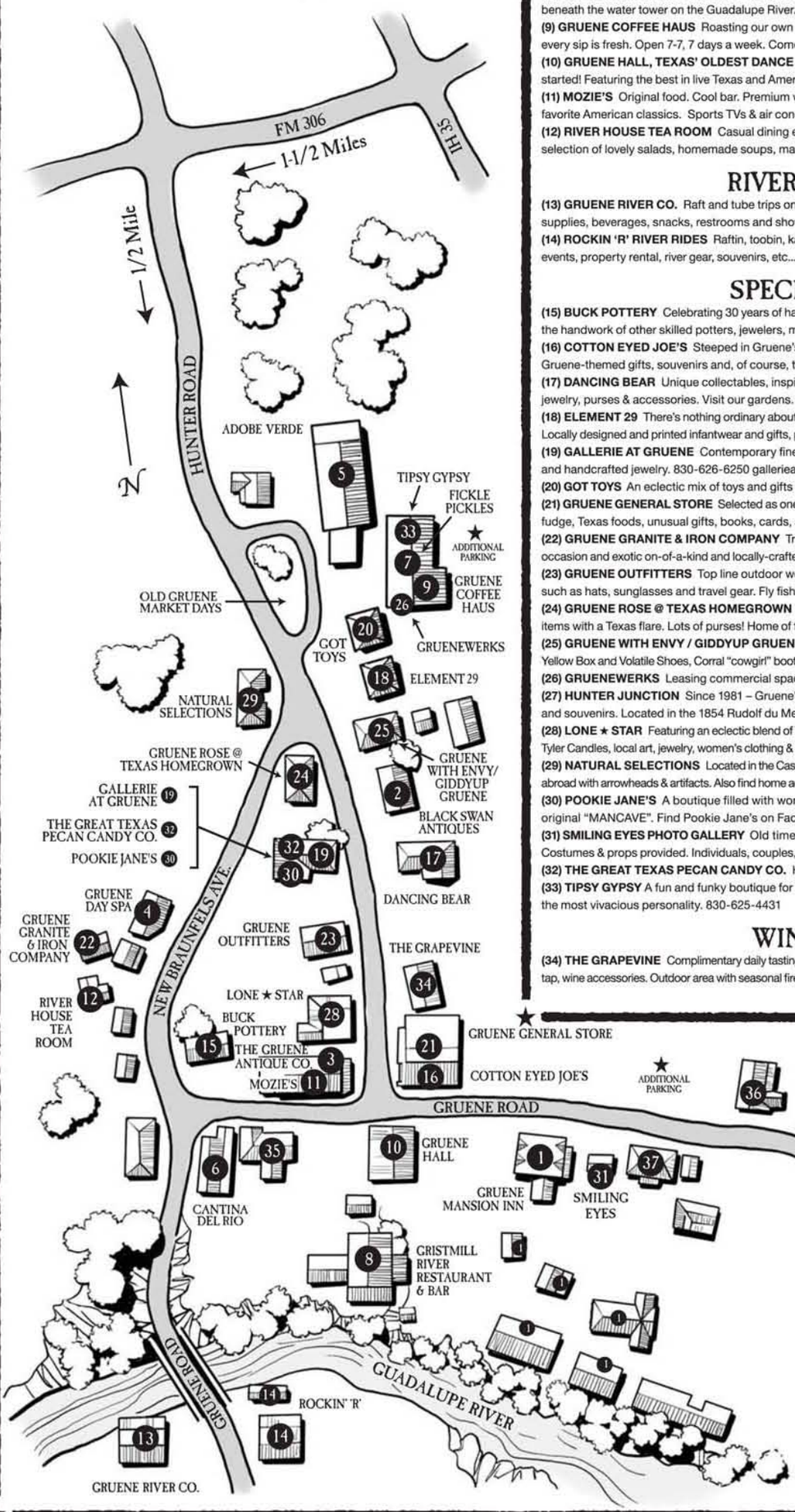
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GRUENE
Historic District
At the Water Tower



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 to Gruene.





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 gruenemansioninn.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. 830-625-7122

(3) THE GRUENE ANTIQUE COMPANY 6,500 sq. ft. of antiques & collectibles. Housed in H.D. Gruene's Texas Landmark mercantile building (circa 1904) with original bank vault. 830-629-7781 grueneantiqueco.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) ADOBE VERDE Gruene's 1922 electric gin is where you satisfy your taste buds with great Mexican food, seafood, margaritas and mixed drinks in an A/C cantina or on an outside deck. 830-629-0777

(6) CANTINA DEL RIO Fashioned after a South Texas ice house. Tasty tacos & juicy Texas burgers, sizzling fajitas, etc! Frozen 'ritas, premium tequilas, sangria & ice cold beer. Outdoor deck dining & bar. 830-515-1950 cantinaingruene.com

(7) 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

(8) 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

(9) GRUENE COFFEE HAUS Roasting our own beans and constructing original blends and flavors, we guarantee every sip is fresh. Open 7-7, 7 days a week. Come get roasted with us! 830-625-5527 gruenecoffee.com

(10) 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. 830-606-1281 gruenehall.com

(11) 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 moziesbarandgrill.com

(12) 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

(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 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-FLOAT rockinr.com

SPECIALTY SHOPS

(15) 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

(16) 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

(17) DANCING BEAR Unique collectables, inspirational, candles, scents, home decor, signs, specialty foods, jewelry, purses & accessories. Visit our gardens. 830-629-2059

(18) 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

(19) GALLERIE AT GRUENE Contemporary fine art created by six local artists. Paintings, sculpture, pottery and handcrafted jewelry. 830-626-6250 gallerieatgruene.net

(20) GOT TOYS An eclectic mix of toys and gifts for ages 0-102. 830-620-4700 gruenetoys.com

(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 GRANITE & IRON COMPANY Truly Gruene's hidden treasure. Pottery, home décor, gifts for any occasion and exotic on-of-a-kind and locally-crafted granite & iron furniture. 830-625-0400 gruenegraniteandiron.com

(23) 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

(24) GRUENE ROSE @ TEXAS HOMEGROWN Offering sassy ladies apparel, footwear, jewelry, scarves and art items with a Texas flare. Lots of purses! Home of the $6.99 earrings. Open daily. 830-629-3176 txhomegrown.com

(25) GRUENE WITH ENVY / GIDDYUP GRUENE Two great stores under one tin roof! Specialty boutique apparel, Yellow Box and Volatile Shoes, Corral "cowgirl" boots, accessories & more. 830-627-0612 gruenewithenvyboutique.com

(26) GRUENEWERKS Leasing commercial space in Gruene. 830-708-4446

(27) HUNTER JUNCTION Since 1981 – Gruene's first retail shop. Suppliers of quality t-shirts, sportswear, gifts and souvenirs. Located in the 1854 Rudolf du Menil building. Open daily-year round. 830-629-4900

(28) LONE ★ STAR Featuring an eclectic blend of Texas-inspired items including rustic home and kitchen décor, books, Tyler Candles, local art, jewelry, women's clothing & charming children's items. 830-609-1613 lonestaringruene.com

(29) NATURAL SELECTIONS Located in the Casa de Pablo Lopez. Specializing in rocks, fossils, jewelry, antiquities from abroad with arrowheads & artifacts. Also find home accents, framed art & unique gifts with a Texas twist. 830-627-2922

(30) POOKIE JANE'S A boutique filled with women's apparel, jewelry, shoes, gifts & much more! Home of the original "MANCAVE". Find Pookie Jane's on Facebook. 830-626-6446

(31) 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

(32) THE GREAT TEXAS PECAN CANDY CO. Handmade pecan candies. 830-627-3343 texaspecancandy.com

(33) TIPSY GYPSY A fun and funky boutique for women with zany apparel, accessories and gifts to express even the most vivacious personality. 830-625-4431

WINE TASTING

(34) THE GRAPEVINE Complimentary daily tastings; large selection of Texas, New World & German wines, craft beers on tap, wine accessories. Outdoor area with seasonal firepits or misters and live music. 830-606-0093 grapevineingruene.com