

Fredericksburg®

THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

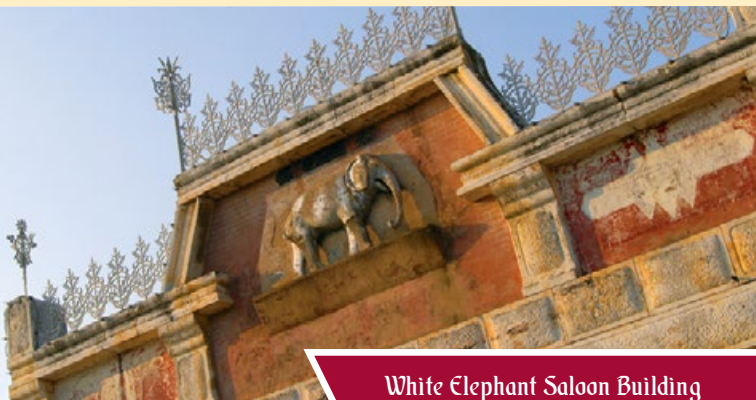
Walking Tour of Historic District



VisitFredericksburgTX.com

Willkommen!

History Surrounds You



White Elephant Saloon Building

With over 700 historically significant structures in the Fredericksburg historic district, history literally surrounds you. In order for this to be a manageable walking tour, 30 sites were selected to give you a flavor of the Fredericksburg story and the architectural styles that have evolved over the decades.

This walking tour starts and ends at the Fredericksburg Visitor Information Center, located at 302 East Austin Street. Ample parking is available behind the center to leave your automobile while you walk our town's streets.

Along the way you will see examples of homes, commercial buildings, civic structures and churches, as well as three examples of the famous Fredericksburg Sunday Houses. Early architectural styles will range from a log cabin to three examples of "fachwerk" construction—the Kammlah House, the Walter Home and the Kuenemann House.

Limestone, readily available in the area, became the building material of choice. Early limestone homes were simple such as the Schandua House and the Tatsch Haus. After some affluence was established, turn of the century rock homes, such as the William Bierschwale Home, took on a grander scale. Many of the notable limestone commercial structures along Main Street date to the post-Civil War building boom.

Because of the emigration package that the first settlers of Fredericksburg received (namely a town lot and acreage for a farm), some of the town lots in the first residential areas were not built upon for decades. As a result, one city block in Fredericksburg may have a log cabin from the early days of settlement, a rock home from the late 1880s, a craftsmen 1930s cottage and a "Hill Country-style" home built in the early 2000s.

**Enjoy your stroll through
Fredericksburg and our history!**

Fredericksburg History

Fredericksburg, the county seat of Gillespie County, is located 65 miles northwest of San Antonio, and 70 miles west of Austin, the state capital, at the intersection of US Highways 87 and 290 and Texas 16. Several farm-to-market and ranch roads traverse the county. Gillespie County is on the Edwards Plateau in the heart of that section known as the Texas Hill Country.



William Bierschwale home

Fredericksburg is steeped in history. The town was founded May 8, 1846, by 120 German immigrants under the auspices of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. The first colonization was of New Braunfels in 1845. In 1848, Fort Martin Scott was established southeast of Fredericksburg.



Kammlah house at Pioneer Museum

The Commissioner General of the Society, also known as the "Adelsverein," was Baron Ottfried Hans von Meusebach, a German nobleman who took the name of John O. Meusebach once settled in Fredericksburg. He was a skilled and capable man in handling the affairs of the colony, and was diplomatic in dealing with the Native Americans. The historic treaty he made with the Comanches on the San Saba River in 1847 was hailed state-wide as the major effort in bringing about peaceful relations with the Native Americans on the frontier.

The City of Fredericksburg derived its name from a German nobleman, Prince Frederick of Prussia, who was the highest ranking member of the "Adelsverein." This society sponsored the colonization of the Fisher-Miller Grant in Central Texas. Poor management by those who preceded Meusebach, however, defeated the original plan for colonization of larger areas north of Fredericksburg, except for those who settled in the Mason-Castell area.



During these early years, over 5,000 colonists from Germany landed at the Texas port of Indianola, also called Carlshaven. Most of them settled in Central Texas. The trip from the Gulf Coast to the site of the colony was made in two-wheeled oxcarts and on foot. Transportation was scarce due to the war between Mexico and the United States, which involved almost all available teamsters.

Sickness and lack of food took a great toll on human life. Many never reached their destination. It was told that one could almost follow the travelers' course by the graves of those who died of the dreaded cholera. With little more than determination, they set about the task of creating a new home in a new world—a land free of religious and political oppression. These sturdy colonists were confronted with many obstacles, chiefly sickness, inadequate food and almost no money. Little, however, could be bought because there were few markets.

After a year or so the Fredericksburg colony began to prosper. Native Americans were, as a rule, peaceful during the early years of the colony, due mainly to the diplomacy of John O. Meusebach.

Sunday houses



Metzger Sunday house

Small townhouses built by German settlers who lived in distant rural areas. Used over weekends by families while they traded or attended church.

A typical early Sunday House had one room with a lean-to kitchen and a half story above, which was reached by outside stairway or ladder. Built during 1890s—1920s, most Sunday Houses were frame but some were rock.

Homes found use during school sessions, periods of religious instruction or serious illness. Some of the larger ones made comfortable retirement homes for elderly German farmers.

About Gillespie County

Gillespie County was created on February 23, 1848, and named after Capt. R.A. Gillespie who fought and died at Monterrey during the war with Mexico in 1846. Originally, the county was four times its present size, containing parts of Blanco, Mason, Llano and Burnet counties. Reallocation of lands began in 1852, and by 1858, through an act of the Texas Legislature, the present boundaries were established. Before Gillespie County was created, it was part of Bexar County.

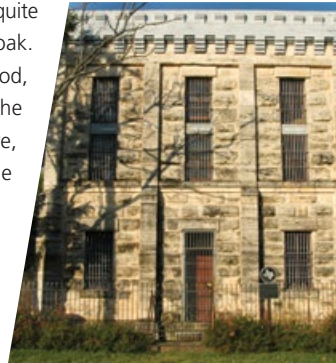
Gillespie County comprises an area of 1,061 square miles. The altitude range of the county varies from 1,400 to 2,244 feet. There is a great variety of soil and vegetation in Gillespie County. Black soil covers lowlands, while other areas are mixed sandy loam, granite and sandy soils. Upland timber consists of cedar (juniper), mesquite and about six different species of oak. Lowlands have elm, hackberry, cottonwood, sycamore, willow and pecan trees. The many types of soil, adequate moisture, and moderate climate account for the diversified farming and ranching.

The County annually produces cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, horses and turkeys. Crops are oats, wheat, barley, sorghums and corn. Gillespie County ranks first in quality of many varieties of peaches grown here. Packing sheds are located in Fredericksburg and Stonewall. Other fruits, including plums, apples and pecans, are grown on a smaller scale. Increasing acreage is being planted in vineyards. Also, hunting white-tailed deer and wild turkey is the leading sport of the Texas Hill Country.

In addition to agriculture, tourism and medical services are major components of the local economy.



Zion Lutheran Church



Old Gillespie County Jail

Pioneer Memorial Library





- RESTROOMS
- VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

THE HISTORIC DISTRICT



1. Nimitz Hotel (1860) **Admission Fee**
(adaptive use – National Museum of the Pacific War)
328 East Main Street

Charles Henry Nimitz, Sr. purchased this property in 1855 and by 1860 the Nimitz Hotel was hosting stagecoach travelers and soon became a center for community activities. The steamboat façade was added in the 1870s when the hotel was expanded. Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz of World War II fame spent time in his grandfather’s hotel and hence the museum is located here today.

2. Priess Building/Keidel Memorial Hospital (1883)
(adaptive use – retail)
258 East Main Street

Constructed by Charles F. Priess of limestone from a quarry off Bear Mountain Road, this building began with a general merchandise and hardware store on the ground floor and living quarters upstairs. In 1938, the building was expanded and converted into a hospital by Dr. Victor Keidel. Today, the structure is once again utilized for retail and restaurant space.

3. White Elephant Saloon (1888)
(adaptive use – retail)
242 East Main Street

One of the more distinctive buildings on Main Street, the White Elephant Saloon was built by John W. Kleck. Three double doors provided entry to the saloon, with the bar along the west side of the structure. The upper room of a two-story frame addition at the back of the building was the site of gambling involving higher stakes than those allowed in the main saloon.

4. Bank of Fredericksburg (1889)
(adaptive use – office)
120 East Main Street

Temple D. Smith, born in Virginia, commissioned Alfred Giles to build the Bank of Fredericksburg building, which reflects the Richardsonian Romanesque design. The first floor served as the bank, with the second floor devoted to Mr. Smith’s residence. The building served as a bank until 1936.

5. Vereins Kirche (1847;1935)
(reproduction – museum operated by Gillespie County Historical Society)
100 block of West Main – Marktplatz

The original Vereins Kirche (society church as it is translated) was the first public building in the settlement and was located in the middle of San Saba Street, which was renamed Main Street. It was to serve as town hall for meetings, as a schoolhouse, as a fort for protection against the Native Americans and as a church for all faiths. The original structure was removed following the town’s golden jubilee in 1897. The reproduction, currently used as a museum on Fredericksburg history, was constructed in 1935.

6. Schwartz Building (1907)
(original use continues)
216 West Main Street

Constructed in 1907 by Charles Schwartz, this limestone commercial building housed a general merchandise and dry goods store on the ground floor and living quarters for the Schwartz family on the second floor.

7. Rudolph Itz Saloon and Home (circa mid-1800s)
(adaptive use – office/guesthouse)
320 West Main Street

Although no dates are known, based on construction methods this complex of the main building and log cabin date back to the earliest days of Fredericksburg, serving as a saloon, butcher shop and beer distributorship through the years. Rudolph’s Saloon advertised in the 1910 Gillespie County Fair catalog that they sold “Ice Cold Pabst and City Beer, Soda and Mineral Water, Cigars, Etc.”

8. Zion Lutheran Church (1853–54)
(original use continues)
426 West Main Street

The oldest Lutheran church in the Texas Hill Country, the congregation was founded by six faithful Lutheran families in 1852. On Sunday, September 19, 1853, the congregation decided to build a rock church— 50 feet long, 36 feet wide and 18 feet high. The members hew wood by hand and quarried the limestone for the construction. Beautiful stained glass windows in the nave symbolize the Christian church year.

9. William Bierschwale Home (1889) **PRIVATE HOME**
(original use continues)
110 North Bowie

Designed by the noted English architect Alfred Giles who came to Texas in 1873, this home was built by William Bierschwale, who served as Gillespie County Clerk from 1898 to 1906. Bierschwale also served as a representative to the State Legislature for 16 years.

10. Tatsch Haus (1856)
(adaptive use – guesthouse)
210 North Bowie

Built by John Peter Tatsch, who was a German cabinetmaker and turner, the stone walls are almost two feet thick. Of particular note is the huge fireplace in the rear gallery kitchen—about 13 feet wide and 5.5 feet high. Detailed floor plans of this house were placed in the Library of Congress during the Texas Centennial in 1936 when outstanding landmarks were recognized.

11. Vogel Sunday House (circa late 1880s) **PRIVATE HOME**
(adaptive use – residential)
418 West Austin

In the 1880s, German immigrant Christian Vogel built the left half of this structure to house his family while in town for Saturday trading and Sunday church services. His son Amandus and wife Elizabeth added the right half and covered the expanded house with pressed tin (to give the appearance of stone) at the turn of the century.

12. Weber Sunday House (1904) **Admission Fee**
(on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum)
325 West Main Street

This Sunday House was built in 1904 near the corner of West San Antonio and South Cherry Streets by Mr. and Mrs. August Weber. It was moved to the grounds of the Pioneer Museum in 1972, and the small house is furnished in much the same style as when the Webers used it. Many of the original Sunday Houses were enlarged and remodeled over the years, so this property offers an authentic glimpse of a Sunday House.

13. Kammlah House (1849) **Admission Fee**
(on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum)
325 West Main Street

Now a part of the Pioneer Museum, the four front rooms were built in 1849 by German settler Henry Kammlah I, with the smokehouse and rooms at rear added in 1875. A general store was operated in the front room from 1875 to 1924.

14. Little Rock House (circa 1860s)
(adaptive use – retail)
215B West Main

This building was constructed shortly after the Civil War on a townlot grant of the German Emigration Company. Bought in 1868 by Heinrich Ochs, pioneer school teacher, and owned by the family for 61 years. Intriguing interior space that was remodeled by Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moseley in early 1960s.

15. Old Gillespie County Courthouse (1882)
(adaptive use – Pioneer Memorial Library)
115 West Main Street

Erected in 1881-1882, this was the second courthouse in Gillespie County and used until 1939. Designed by Alfred Giles, the native stone structure is in fine balance and symmetry. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McDermott provided the funds to restore the building as a library in 1966–67.

16. Frank van der Stucken House (circa 1850s)
(adaptive use – retail)
123 East Main

Frank van der Stucken, a native of Antwerp, Belgium, came to Texas at age 15 in the company of Henri Castro, French colonizer. He married Sophie Schoenewolf. Their son, Frank Valentin van der Stucken, was born in this house on October 15, 1858. The younger van der Stucken studied with Advard Grieg and Carl Reinecke in Leipzig. He became a noted American composer, director of the Arion Maennerchor in New York City and conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony.

17. The Schandua Building (1897)
(original use continues)
205 East Main

Made of hand-hewn limestone, this structure was the home of John and Bertha Schandua. They lived upstairs and John’s hardware store was downstairs. Hardware businesses were operated here until 1972. The original use of building continues with retail downstairs and residential /B & B use upstairs.

18. Schmidt-Gold Home (circa 1860s)
(adaptive use – guesthouse)
106 South Lincoln Street

This home was built in the 1860s by German stonemason Lorenz Schmidt, who helped build the Vereins Kirche. The home was enlarged to two floors in 1902 by Jacob Gold, Sr., a local business leader and founder of the Rheingold community in eastern Gillespie County. The home’s material and design reflect influences of the early German settlers.

19. William Rausch House (1906) **PRIVATE HOME**
(original use continues)
107 South Lincoln Street

Gillespie County native William Rausch, a stonemason and carpenter by trade, probably did much of the construction himself. This German vernacular limestone structure features a central gable with jig-cut decorative trim. The first home on this site, belonging to Adoph Lungkwitz, was torn down to make room for this house.

20. Holy Ghost Evangelical Protestant Church (1893)
(original use continues)
113 East San Antonio Street

This congregation traces its origins to the first Protestant services held in Fredericksburg in 1846 by the Rev. Henry Basse. Members worshiped at the old Vereins Kirche until this building was dedicated in 1893. The tower houses an original bell from the Vereins Kirche. Congregation became Holy Ghost Lutheran church in 1948-49.

21. Old Gillespie County Jail (1885)
(property of Gillespie County)
117 West San Antonio Street

This stone structure, constructed in 1885, housed a holding area and living quarters for the jailer on the ground floor and steel-clad cells on the second floor. The building was used as a county jail facility until 1939.

22. Marienkirche/ Old St. Mary’s Church (1863)
(original use continues)
306 West San Antonio Street

Construction of this church was begun in 1860 by the parishioners. The church is built in cruciform, typical of early Christian churches. The 12 Gothic arched windows, commemorating the 12 apostles, originally had clear glazed glass, which was replaced with blue cathedral glass.

23. St. Mary’s Catholic Church (1908)
(original use continues)
306 West San Antonio Street

Although completed in 1908, this church is still referred to by many local residents as “the new church.” Known as one of the “painted churches” of Texas, St. Mary’s is adorned with beautiful stained glass and stenciling and is an outstanding example of Gothic architecture.

24. Metzger Sunday House (1898)
(adaptive use – guesthouse)
406 West San Antonio Street

Farmers by occupation, the Metzger family built this little house to use on the weekends when they came to town for shopping and attending church. The home has been in the family for over a century and is currently rented out as a guesthouse. Two other Sunday Houses are adjacent to this one.

25. Walter Home (1846)
(adaptive use – church)
605 West Creek Street

One of the earliest homes in Fredericksburg, built by German settler Peter Walter of “fachwerk” construction in 1846. He owned and farmed surrounding land while plying his trade of wagoner to Fort McKavett. House was bought by St. Barnabas mission parish in 1952. After construction of new church in 1964, this structure serves as meditation chapel.

26. Kuenemann House (circa 1847)
(adaptive use – bed & breakfast)
413 West Creek Street

Frederic Kuenemann and his family sailed from Bremen, Germany in September 1845. They arrived in the newly settled Fredericksburg in 1846. In 1866, Kuenemann bought the “fachwerk” or half-timbered dwelling which comprised the ground floor of the house, probably built in 1847 by Heinrich Schupp. The frame of heavy timbers and diagonal bracing filled with fieldstone is classic example of European medieval building method. By the 1880s, a kitchen, a second floor with double gallery and Victorian gingerbread trim had been added. Wonderful example of evolution of building styles in Fredericksburg.

27. Pape Log Cabin (1846) **PRIVATE HOME**
213 West Creek

One of the oldest structures in Fredericksburg, this log cabin was built by communal effort for the family of Friedrich Pape in 1846. Mrs. Pape was ailing, and they had one daughter, Dorothea, who later became the wife of Carl Hilmar Guenther, founder of Pioneer Flour Mills in San Antonio, one of Texas’ oldest business firms. The post oak logs were cut nearby and the first roof was probably thatched grass.

28. Bonn Houses (circa 1860s and early 1900s)
(adaptive use – retail/restaurant)
206 and 210 South Adams

The older of these two houses is is the one at 206 South Adams and belonged to Peter Bonn who was born in Hanover, Germany. Bonn did not side with the Union or the Confederate cause during the Civil War and hence was targeted by the “Haengerbande” (band of hangman). His son, Adolph Bonn, built the house at 210 South Adams around 1905. Enid Collins purchased the property in 1972 and remodeled it for the present use as a restaurant and retail.

29. F.W. Arhelger Shop (1898)
(adaptive use – retail)
109 North Adams

This commercial building was constructed in 1898 for use as a farm implement shop by Frederick William Arhelger. Built of quarried limestone with a front ramp and double doors, it was designed to accommodate wagons and large farm equipment.

30. Schandua House (circa late 1870s)
(property of Gillespie County Historical Society)
111 East Austin Street

An example of an early pioneer home, the Schandua House has had very little modification done, with no electricity or plumbing even today. Built before 1880, this house belonged to John and Bertha Schandua.

Historic Sites & Museums – Beyond Downtown

CEMETERIES

Fredericksburg has two historic cemeteries located at the east and west ends of town. Der Stadt Friedhof, located at the 300 block of N. Lee Street, and the Catholic Cemetery, located on Catholic Cemetery Road, are both known for their striking granite markers and headstones, many in German.

LUCKENBACH TEXAS

412 Luckenbach Loop, off RR 1376,
8 miles SE of Fredericksburg
(830) 997-3224

Established as a trading post in 1849, Luckenbach consists of a dancehall, general store and bar. This settlement has enjoyed continued notoriety for its free spirit and unique events. Live music can be heard most days in the bar or under the old oak tree.

Hours: Monday – Saturday 10 A.M. – 9 P.M.
Sunday: Noon – 9 P.M.

No admission fee. (Admission fee to some events)

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Hwy. 290 East, 16 miles (Stonewall) / 30 miles
Johnson City
(830) 868-7128

The LBJ Ranch near Stonewall is home to The Texas White House, the LBJ birthplace, the Johnson Family cemetery, the old Junction School and the ranch show barn. Please stop at the visitor information center, located in the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site right off of Highway 290, to pick up maps and information regarding the self-guided driving route onto the LBJ Ranch. The Texas White House is now open for ranger-led tours from 10 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. There is a fee for Texas White House tours.

Hours: Driving permits are issued between 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. daily

The LBJ Boyhood Home is located in Johnson City and offers a Visitor Center with exhibits and films on LBJ and Lady Bird, the Boyhood Home, an education building, and the historic Johnson Settlement.

Hours: Visitor Center 9:00 A.M. – 5 P.M.
No admission fee.



Fredericksburg
THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Texas Heart. German Soul.

Visitor Information Center:
302 E. Austin St.

Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
1-888-997-3600 (830) 997-6523
visitorinfo@fbgtx.org

www.VisitFredericksburgTX.com

SAUER-BECKMANN

LIVING HISTORY FARM

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site
Hwy. 290 East, 16 miles (Stonewall)
(830) 644-2455

Visit a living history farmstead of the pioneers. See how the farm families of a century ago lived. Learn about seasonal activities such as sausage making, sheep shearing, canning, etc.

Hours: 8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Daily.
No admission fee.

GILLESPIE COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS DRIVING TRAIL

www.historicschools.org

View 12 historic country schools in Gillespie County. A special map with highlighted routes will direct visitors to schools in a particular quadrant of the county. Driving times on routes vary from one hour in length to half a day. Free maps of the trail are available at the main Visitor Information Center at 302 East Austin Street in downtown Fredericksburg.

FORT MARTIN SCOTT HISTORIC SITE

1606 East Main Street
(830) 217-3200
www.ftmartinsscott.org

Visit this pre-Civil War (1848) military outpost, which is on the National Registry of Historic Sites. Interpretive signage brings the history of one of the first frontier Army forts in Texas into focus.

Hours: Open Thursday through Monday 10 A.M. – 5 P.M. for self-guided tours.
No admission fee.

TEXAS RANGERS HERITAGE CENTER AT FORT MARTIN SCOTT

1618 East Main Street
(830) 990-1192
www.trhc.org

The Former Texas Rangers Association has been committed to preserving Ranger artifacts and history for over 113 years. Phase One of the Texas Ranger Museum includes the Ranger Ring of Honor, the Open-Air Pavilion, the Amphitheater and the Campanili Bell Tower.

Hours: Open Thursday through Monday 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
No admission fee.



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