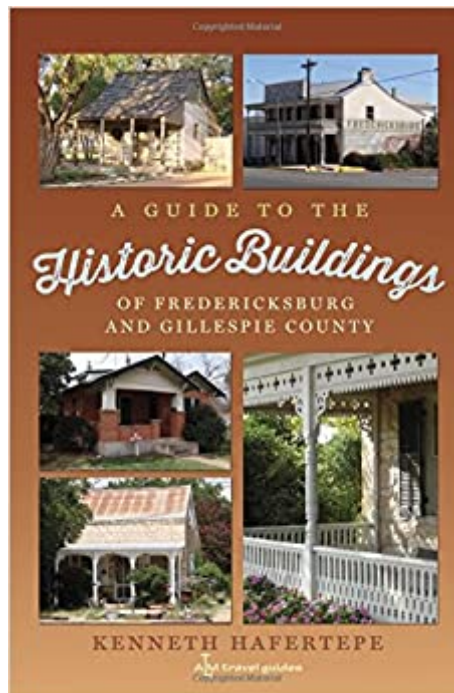




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# A Guide To The Historic Buildings Of Fredericksburg And Gillespie County



## Synopsis

This richly illustrated book tracks the evolution of Fredericksburg architecture and guides readers through the streets of this once-westernmost German settlement in America, pointing out the log, fachwerk, and stone buildings that housed the town's full-time residents, its weekenders, and the businesses of the nineteenth century. Abundant with details uncovered by Hafertepe in his research, including corrections to construction dates based on newly tapped records, this guide features those buildings visible to visitors from the public streets and sidewalks. The author lists which buildings are open for tours and which ones have been converted to public use such as museums, stores, or restaurants. The buildings of Fredericksburg reflect memories of classic German construction and technique with a gradual transition to American styles, including a few remarkable decades that were neither purely German nor American distinctively but saw the creation of a regional style. This book allows readers to walk down the streets of Fredericksburg and see the layers of Texas history on display: everything from a pioneer log cabin to an art deco courthouse.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Kenneth Hafertepe can read a house like a history book. Its design and building materials, its age, its location and its owners all contribute clues that add up to a broader history of a neighborhood, a town or a region. . . A Guide to the Historic Buildings of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County is tailor-made to accompany and inform a walking or driving tour of the Texas town

and its surrounding county. • Waco Tribune (Waco Tribune 2015-08-04) " . . . will open the readers' eyes not only to the rich details of the buildings but also to the stories and culture of their designers, builders, and owners. . . makes a journey to these areas more enjoyable and promotes the knowledge of early settlers and history. • Mexia News (Mexia News 2015-08-04) "A Guide to the Historic Buildings of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County is a book anyone sightseeing in Gillespie County will want to have on hand, and anyone interested in Texas architecture will enjoy reading." • Galveston County Daily News (Galveston County Daily news 2016-02-09)

KENNETH HAFERTEPE is chair of the department of museum studies at Baylor University. He is the author of several books, including *America's Castle: The Evolution of the Smithsonian Building and Its Institution, 1840-1878* and *Abner Cook: Master Builder on the Texas Frontier*.

This wonderful new guide is a welcome and outstanding contribution to histories of the Texas Hill Country. It is a journey through time and space that, in my opinion, is destined to become a classic. A tribute to the heritage of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County, this book offers both architectural and historic details of each selected structure, with information about its builder, occupants, uses, and relationship to the larger community. The author combines exhaustive research with an obvious love and mastery of his subject. It must have been a challenge to synthesize massive amounts of technical and arcane information into an easily-accessible and well-written portable guidebook. Mr. Hafertepe succeeds admirably. Also included are outstanding recent color photographs of 210 sites, beginning with the symbolic Fredericksburg Vereins-Kirche replica and ending with the Texas White House at the LBJ National Park in Stonewall. These photographs of existing structures in town and county create a record of independent merit that is well worth the guide's price. You will want to savor the text, too, but a slow pace is necessary to avoid being overwhelmed by the abundance of detail. I highly recommend you select a short route (it is easy to follow the book's excellent sequencing and clear addresses), read each entry in advance, then take the guide and a larger town map with you on your tour. Fredericksburg's historic streets make walking a pleasure. Personal note: I have a home in the historic district (it gets two sentences in the book, woo hoo!) and have spent many hours walking along Main Street and throughout town, usually being towed by my dog. I cannot count the times I've wondered about places I pass. This book is exactly what I would have requested. I am overjoyed that the author and

publishing team had the dedication, perseverance, and expertise to create it (I only wish I knew more about my house!). I can vouch for the difficulty of taking good photographs of most of these structures and hope the photographer was not squished like a bug by a vehicle or pedestrian somewhere along Main Street. Kudos also go to Texas A&M University Press for a beautifully-crafted, sturdy travel guide. I intend to test its durability until one of us wears out. TAMU Press field guides are always excellent, and this one is a star among stars. Finally, to Professor Hafertepe: DANKE SEHR! One copy of your guide is already well-thumbed. My reserve copy resides in the fine company of Terry Jordan's Texas Graveyards and his father's Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country, a spot it well deserves.

A well researched book about the buildings, both commercial and residential, that represent an earlier life in the Texas Hill Country; specifically, Fredericksburg, Texas.

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