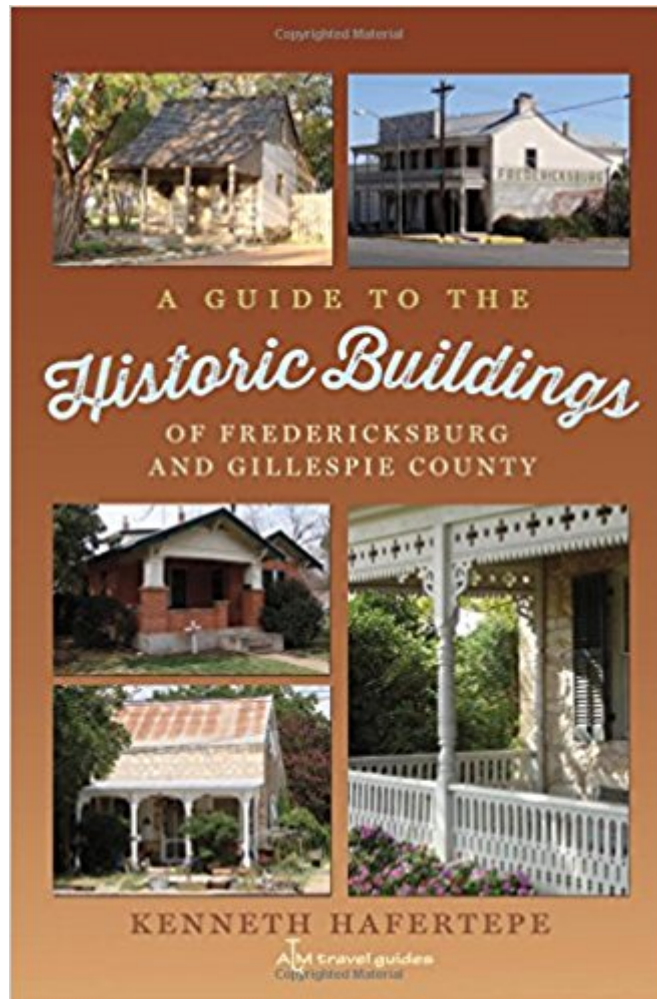


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A Guide To The Historic Buildings Of Fredericksburg And Gillespie County



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

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: Texas A&M University Press (May 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1623492726

ISBN-13: 978-1623492724

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.7 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,192,638 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > History >

Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Fredericksburg #286

in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Historic Preservation #493 in Books > Travel >

United States > South > West South Central

Customer Reviews

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.

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