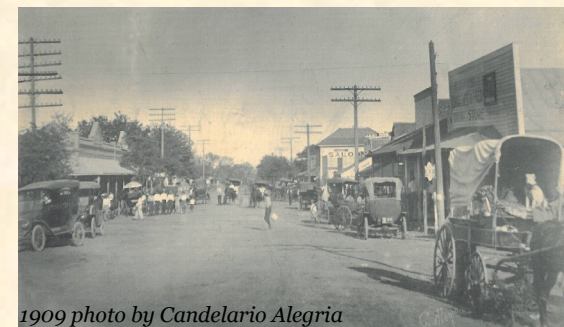


Discover Historic Chihuahua Street

Discover the Early Merchants of Historic Chihuahua Street in La Vernia, Texas



1909 photo by Candelario Alegria

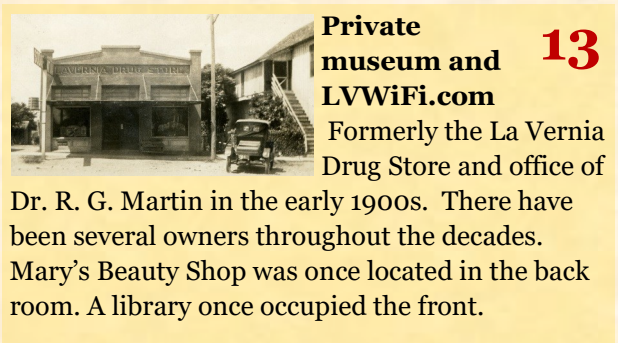
“Now & Then” a Self-Guided Walking Tour

The names of buildings in bold are the current buildings - the “Now.” All information is as of June 2020

This brochure was prepared by the La Vernia Historical Association... We welcome additional information. We are an all-volunteer, 501-C-3 nonprofit. Your membership and donations support our mission. Thank You!



13 Private museum and LVWiFi.com Formerly the La Vernia Drug Store and office of Dr. R. G. Martin in the early 1900s. There have been several owners throughout the decades. Mary's Beauty Shop was once located in the back room. A library once occupied the front.



21 Primitive Baptist Church. In 1891, the original church building, called Rector Chapel, was moved two miles by oxen from FM 2772 to this location. It burned to the ground on Oct. 13, 2010, and was rebuilt. The bell from the tower was donated and moved to the La Vernia Heritage Museum.



Chihuahua Street was named for the historic Chihuahua Road, a trade route between the silver mines in Chihuahua, Mexico and the shipping ports on the Gulf of Mexico. As late as 1878, silver from Chihuahua was still traded in La Vernia. The street was the original downtown of La Vernia. When Highway 87 was completed in 1960, the activity on Chihuahua Street was forever changed.

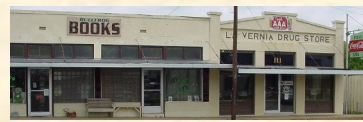
In this guide, we have focused on the early businesses along central Chihuahua Street. Private homes have been and continue to be present along the street. Please do not trespass on private property. Thank you!

Visit us at the La Vernia Heritage Museum, the former firehouse, on the corner of Hwy 87 & Bluebonnet!

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14 Morrison Realty Group LLC. Formerly the La Vernia Post Office until it moved to its next location at the corner of Crews and Hwy 87E. Some of the later occupants were Bullfrog Books, multiple gift shops, a vacuum cleaner shop, and the LV Municipal Development District.

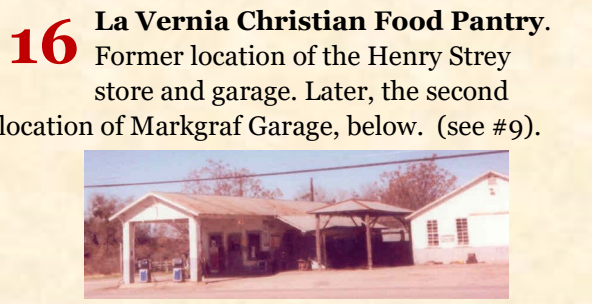
Office of Cynthia K. Buerkle CPA. Previously occupied by Dr. Martin's office (early 1900s), later, J. T. Hemby's office, and Bullfrog Books.



15 Wells Fargo Bank and parking lot. The State Bank of La Vernia's second location, right. Below, originally the La Vernia Motor Co., a Ford Dealership opened by Dr. R. G. Martin and Fred Nicholson in 1924. It was replaced with the current building, the 3rd location of the State Bank of LV; now Wells Fargo. The small building on the right was the LV post office.



16 La Vernia Christian Food Pantry. Former location of the Henry Strey store and garage. Later, the second location of Markgraf Garage, below. (see #9).



17 Hope Church. Formerly a plant nursery, later Helping Hand Hardware. As early as the 1930s, a separate building held the Hormuth's Service Station, Drycleaners, and Liquor Store.



18 La Vernia Family Medical Center. Former location of a pool hall and beer joint with several owners throughout the years. Often called Joe's Drive In.



19 Dairy Queen and Mini-Mart area. Former location of several beer joints and pool halls. One was the Wooden Indian. Others in this area included the Henry Strey store, Kiolbassa Feed and Supply Store, Ahrens Feed and Supply, and the home of Willie Witte.



20 McGarrell Orthodontist Office. Former site of the La Vernia United Methodist Church chapel, office and classrooms. The chapel faced Chihuahua St. and was moved to its current location on FM 775 on Aug. 8, 1996.



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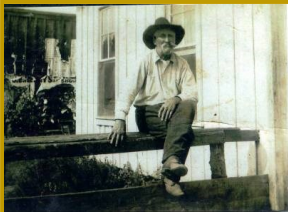
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**1 La Vernia City Hall.** Formerly King's Bar, next to the meat market which was on the corner.

**2 City Hall parking lot and LV Police Department.** Former area of the Suttles Pottery scrap pile and part of King's Bar.



**Studio La Vida.**

**3** General area of the Suttles Pottery owned by Civil War Veterans, George and Isaac Suttles from the late 1800s

to about 1910. George Suttles in photo. Later the site of the Herman Brause store. In 1931-32 the Paul Vorpahl Red & White Big-Low Grocery was built. Later it became the A&A Big-Low grocery followed by several businesses, offices, and shops.



**4 Newer retail strip center and Jane Y. McCallum Public Library.**

Formerly a line of wooden stores including a meat market, barber shop (Smith and Shafenberg), The Ice House, Romie's Café (left), Valtine Koepp Saloon and Pool Hall, Lenz and Wieding Saloon, Gugger Hotel, several saloons, the first location of Lenz Café, and later, the *La Vernia News* office between **4** & **5**.



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**5 Vacant lot.** Site of Koepp Garage's second location; built in 1931-32. The LV Volunteer Fire Dept. met here. Mr. E. O. Koepp, Sr. built a playground for the children here. Tent shows set up here. The *La Vernia News* office was in a small temporary building here until it moved to what is now the Jane Y. McCallum Public Library on Chihuahua Street. Baumann's Supermarket, behind the site, occupied the now vacant building facing Crews St.



**6 Back side of Little Bear Day Care and Valero.** Former location of the Mattke Lumber Yard and Planing Mill and residence of the owners, Oscar and Pauline Mattke.

**7 White wooden home with curved porch,** built before 1913 by Hermann Suhre for his daughter, Eda Suhre Englehardt, who boarded school children and overnights who walked from the train depot once located on CR 342 by the water tower. The home is now a private residence.



**8 Tin-wrapped building with red double door.** Hermann Suhre's store, built in 1880s. Eda Suhre Englehardt is standing at the door in this photo. Look for our blue historical marker.

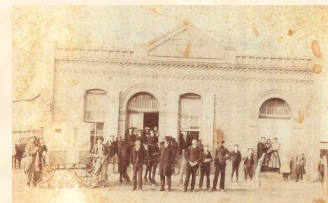
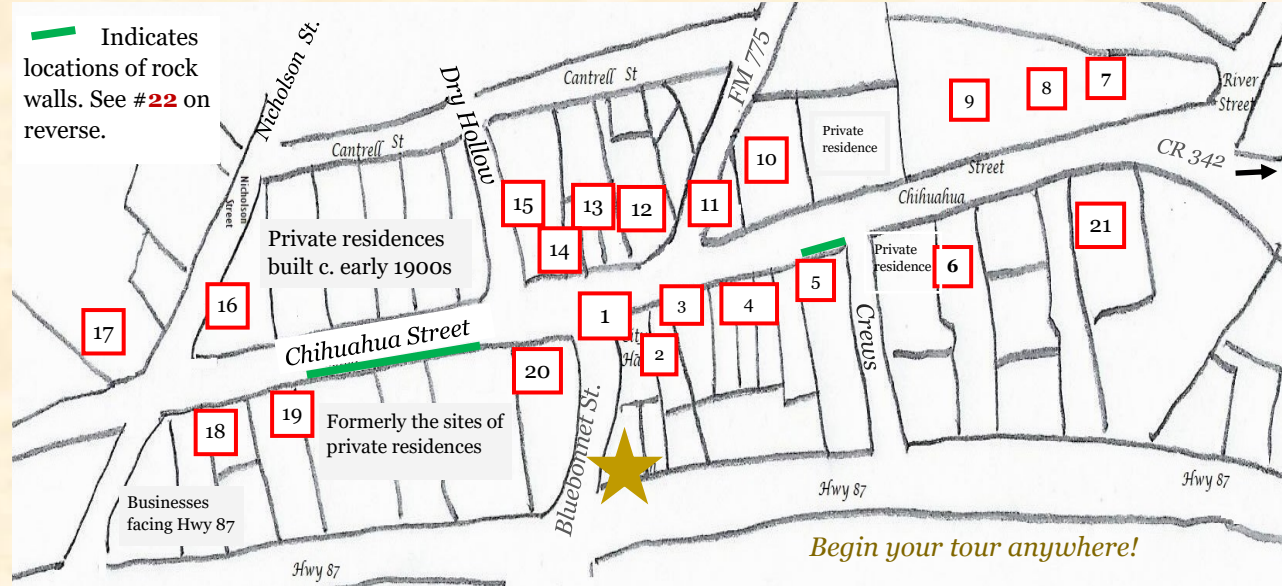


Private property; please do not trespass.



**Narrow wood structure.**

**9** Formerly the La Vernia Lumber Co., originally owned by Tewes, Wiseman, Wiseman, and Kott. Managed by Hermann Suhre. Estab. 1921. The first location of Markgraf Garage, operated by Henry Schievelbein and Russ Markgraf in the 1930s; later moved to area #16.



**11 Johanson Pump Supply and Christian Brothers Gallery.** Formerly the Linne Bros. Store

which sold general merchandise, and began operations in the 1920s. The building was constructed around 1900. The Lavernia State Bank occupied the corner office and later became the State Bank of La Vernia. At one time Bill Grubb operated the La Vernia TV & Appliance store here.



**Vrazel Automotive.**

**10** Former site of the Lay Hotel which did not face Chihuahua but instead faced west. About 1925, a half-section of the building was removed.



**12 Unoccupied red brick building.** Tewes and Abbott owned a grocery store here in

the early 1900s. Later it was the Herman Brause General Merchandise store and in 1942 became the H. C. Schraub General Merchandise store. A portion of the building has been removed. It held Mary Knoll's Beer Joint and later, the Ervin Lenz Café. As early as 1925, the two-story Racket Store (right) also existed at this site along with the second location of Mary's Beauty Shop and the Shafenburg Barber

