

A brief History of the Schraub red brick building on Chihuahua Street in La Vernia, Texas

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TEWES & ABBOTT GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE.

As early as 1891, a “frame storehouse” existed on the property at the corner of Chihuahua and Seguin Streets (FM 775) in La Vernia.

In 1896, the *San Antonio Light* reported that Ed Tewes had plans to build “a fine brick store” where we now see the old red brick building often called the Schraub building.

Edward Tewes became one of the owners of this property in 1898 and shortly thereafter built the red brick building known as Tewes and Abbott, a general merchandise store.

In 1935, Herman Brause moved his existing general merchandise business to this location from across Chihuahua Street and continued here until 1942.

In 1942 when Herman Brause closed his store, it became Harry C. Schraub General Merchandise store until it closed in the early 1970s.

If you look closely, you can still see the “ghost sign” of the Schraub store on the side of the deteriorating building.

In the 1950s, Mary Knoll’s Saloon occupied an adjoining section of the Schraub store. During the 1970s, it was the Ervin Lenz Café. The café section was later removed but many locals still remember the delicious enchiladas served by Lenz.

After the café, the building housed several small businesses but has remained vacant for many years. In 2021, the roof of the building was removed. The La Vernia Historical Association continues to record the legend of the building on historic Chihuahua Street.