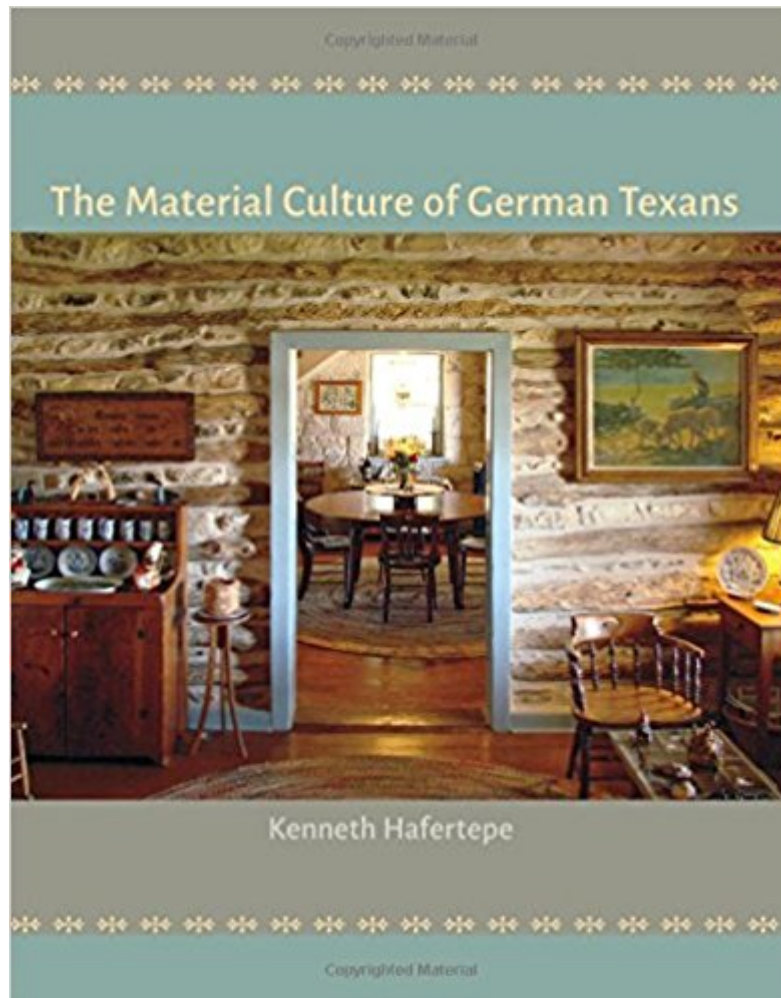




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# The Material Culture Of German Texans



## Synopsis

German immigrants of the nineteenth century left a distinctive mark on the lifestyles and vernacular architecture of Texas. In this first comprehensive survey of the art and artifacts of German Texans, Kenneth Hafertepe explores how their material culture was influenced by their European roots, how it was adapted to everyday life in Texas, and how it changed over timeâat different rates in different communities. *The Material Culture of German Texans* is about the struggle to become American while maintaining a distinctive cultural identity drawn from German heritage. Including materials from rural, small town, and urban settings, this masterful study covers pioneer generations in East Texas and the Hill Country, but also follows the story into the Victorian era and the early twentieth century. Houses and their furnishings, churches and cemeteries, breweries and businesses, and paintings and engravings fill the pages of this thorough, informative, and richly illustrated volume. Recent decades have seen a sharp increase of the study of vernacular architecture (which can range from traditional building to ethnic expressions to landscape ensembles) and an intensified study of American furniture and other decorative arts. Incorporating these vernacular and decorative arts methods and building on the works of cultural geographers, curators, and historians, *The Material Culture of German Texans* offers a definitive contribution that will inform visitors to the region as well as those who study its history and culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

KENNETH HAFERTEPE is chair of the department of museum studies at Baylor University. He is

the author of several books, including A Guide to the Historic Buildings of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County.

Very useful, wel-done

Well written book concerning German Texas immigrants and their homes and possessions.

The Ethician Foundation's museum collections contain 700 pieces of Texas furniture including perhaps the world's largest collection of German pioneer made tables and other furniture. We had given permission to the author to use (pro-bono) any of our extensive collections in the book and I was extremely disappointed to see that The Ethician Foundation Museum of Texas Furniture was not even mentioned, especially since we do not charge admission. George H. Russell President and Curator The Ethician Foundation

Great undiscovered History!

This is a thorough, thoughtful and well-researched book on a German domestic spaces and decor in Texas. A great deal of attention is paid to the Texas Hill Country--specifically Fredericksburg and New Braunfels--but other areas are mentioned as well, including San Antonio. As a companion to the author's first book or as a stand alone volume, it is a remarkable accomplishment and greatly updates and expands existing information on the topic.

Being of German heritage I was excited about the book. My great grandfather built three round halls in Bellville, Cat Spring and Peters. I immediately opened the book and looked up mention of his name and his work. Wow. Picture of Bellville Turnverein captioned Coshatte Hall. Picture of Coshatte Hall captioned Bellville Turnverein. In addition, his biographical info was mostly incorrect. I agree about the Texas furniture. Very limited in my view. I have the book promoted by Miss Ima Hogg and the German furniture in Texas was an important part of our culture. I did buy book from another source even though I have bought so much from . I have not gone through it completely because I was so mad at what I'd seen. Wasted good money!!!!

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