

Pat Morrison, 6-11-68
14" x 9" OTHMP
Comal County (Job # 2435)
Location: at site, 228 S. Seguin Street, New Braunfel

2435

OLD ***
CARL W. GROOS HOME *

BUILT ABOUT 1870 OF ADOBE
BRICK WITH CYPRESS FLOOR,
DOORS, HAS ORIGINAL ROLLED
GLASS WINDOWS, RUBY GLASS IN
FRONT DOOR. IT HAS BEEN THE
RESIDENCE OF BANKER CARL W.
GROOS; JUDGE ADOLF GIESECKE;
MERCHANT FRITZ SCHOLL; AND
H. DITTLINGER, FLOUR MIDLER. **

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK, 1968 ***

* 1/2 " lettering
** 3/8 " lettering
*** 1/4 " lettering

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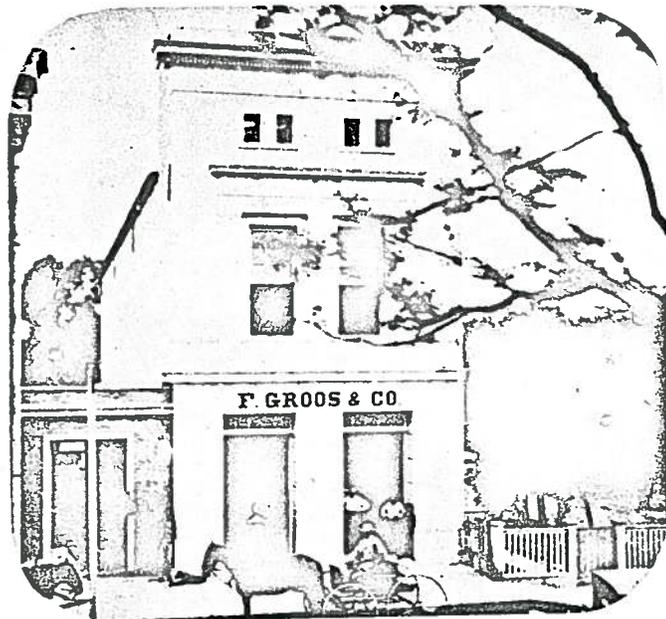
RECEIVED
READY FOR

AUG 14 1968

SOUTHWELL ORDER
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Approved
By
8-14-68

The first San Antonio home of F. Groos & Company, 1866-1879, was located almost across the street from the new bank building.



FREDERICK GROOS
1827-1912

His wife was a Mexican lady



CARL GROOS
1830-1893



GUSTAV GROOS
1832-1895

Home on Washington

Called "Charles" in New Braunfels

*Am. * 335 King Will in New Braunfels & could find*

**Founded on Need —
Built on Service**

HISTORY OF THE GROOS NATIONAL BANK

from merchants traders evolved into banks by way of trade

This Groos Bank building was erected in 1879 at the Northeast corner of Commerce and Navarro Streets.

- 3 Hilmar Louis, m. Marie Bachmann, of Cleveland, Ohio:
 - i Dorothea Marie, m. John M. Moore, by whom: John M. and Hilmar Guenther.
 - ii Elisabeth Kunigunde, m. Norvel Chittim, by whom: Mary Ann and Dorothea Guenther.
- 4 Amanda Auguste, m. Oct. 1881, Adolph Wagner: S. P.
- 5 Marie Dorothea, m. A. F. Beckmann (above).
- 6 Matilda Hulda, m. Hermann Schuchard.
- 7 Erhard Rosini, m. Lottie Harnisch (Josephine Charlotte, according to the "Reg. of Births," I. 90, dau. of Charles Harnisch and Louise Brentano, b. Aug. 18, 1876):
 - i a dau., d. y.

ii Marie Louisa, b. Nov. 1, 1912; m. Sept., 1, 1934, Theodore James; the marriage took place at the old Guenther homestead on Guenther St. with ceremony performed in the garden, by the pastor of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Rev. McKinstry. They have a daughter, Helen Guenther, b. June 14th, 1935.

Emil Carl Friedrich Guenther, *Graf von Schwarzenberg*, was in San Antonio in 1887. The two families should not be confused, however.

GROOS

Phillip Friedrich Carl Groos, a Lutheran pastor at Arfeld, m. Charlotte Wilhelmine Kneip, daughter of Conrad Kneip, pastor at Arfeld. Their son:

I. Karl Wilh. Apollo, was born at Arfeld, Jan. 29, 1794; lived at Strass-Ebersbach bei Dillenburg (1823-1847); m. at Erndtebrueck, May 28, 1824, Sophie Wilhelmine Luise Martin, b. at Erndtebrueck, Dec. 18, 1805, daughter of Nicolaus, and d. at Ebersbach, April 21, 1844. Karl Wilh., a widower, left for Texas August 29, 1848, taking his children with him. He lived in San Antonio in the early 60's; and d. at New Braunfels, June 12, 1882. His children were:

- 1 Friedrich Wilh. Carl, b. 1827; q. s.
- 2 Julie, m. Johann Carl von Rosenberg: P. (Lagrange, Texas).
- 3 Karl, b. Nov. 30, 1830; d. Feb. 24, 1892; Director of the Western Texas Life, Fire & Marine Ins. Co. (1870); mem. of the Republican Executive Committee (1873); m. Hulda Moureau, whose sister Emmy, m. Edward Dreiss; and whose sister Tehkla, m. William Dohmen (parents of Dr. Franz J. Dohmen), daughters of Franz Moureau of Dillenburg (son of Joseph and Caroline Ebhardt) and Alwine vom Stein (dau. of Carl and Elise Fernow) of Barmen, New Braunfels settlers, lived in San Antonio in 1849. A portrait of F. Moureau, a mem. of the "Germania Gesangverein," of New Braunfels, is in the painting of this society, done by Iwonski in 1857 (see Biesele, p. 222).
 - Alwine vom Stein had a brother Edmund, who returned to Germany; Edmund had a son Paul, the druggist;

and Paul had a son Edmund, now living in San Antonio. Alwine's sister Hulda, m. Otto Stuve of Cologne; they lived in San Antonio until their home burned, and then went to New Braunfels; their dau. Maria, m. Egmont Schram, and their dau. Valeska, m. Dr. Edward Auer. Franz Moureau had a brother Julius, who was in the German Consular Service in Mexico (colleague of George S. Chabot).

- i W. T. Elise, b. March 11, 1871.
- ii Helena, b. Oct. 26, 1872 ("Reg. of B.," I. 79); m. Julius Buss, parents of Emilie, d. y., Helena Elise, Albert Carl, and Elise Hulda.
- iii Franz Carl, b. April 11, 1877; Pres. of the Groos National Bank; attended the German-English School, 1891; Alamo City Business College, 1892; S. A. Academy, 1894; Princeton Univ., 1898; now living in the homestead, at the NW cor. of King William and Sheridan Sts.
- iv Carl Friedrich, b. July 25, 1879; m. Nov. 15, 1922, Bettie Stevens James, by whom: Carl F., Jr., b. Sept. 16, 1923; Bettie; and Ann Petty.
- v Adolph, twins; d. Apr. 20, 1935; m. Mamie Bergstrom: S. P.
- vi Hetta, b. Jan. 14, 1881; m. Julius Jockusch, of an early German family in Galveston; of their children, Carl, is now in the Groos National Bank in San Antonio.
- vii Hulda, d. y.
- viii Ernst, m. Hallie Bolinger (De Witt Clinton and Earle Harrison), by whom: Hallie Bolinger, Elise Harrison, and Ernest Martin, b. 1924.
- ix Richard Arthur, b. 1891; m. Florence Tyden, of Evanston, Ill., by whom: Richard Tyden. They live in Hastings, Mich.
- x Gustav, b. June 10, 1832; d. Aug. 21, 1895; m. Dec. 28, 1865, at Bluff, Texas, Anna Willrich, b. March 25, 1843, at Uelgen, near Hanover, dau. of George Karl Willrich (b. Jan. 15, 1798, att'y and solicitor, came to Texas in 1847

In 1967 still living; is retired but goes to his club daily. Have up old home for Heinslein site.

This is the "Charles" of New Braunfels

2435
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and settled at Bluff, Fayette County, where he d. 1876) and Elise Kuckuck b. Apr. 27, 1808, in Lueneburg, near Hanover, dau. of an army officer; d. at Bluff, Oct. 16, 1907. The Gustav Groos residence is on Washington St. Gustav and Anna had:

- i Elise Friederike, b. Oct. 27, 1866, in San Antonio; m. Arthur Wm. Guenther, b. Feb. 12, 1858; d. Jan. 4, 1931:
 - a Hilmar Guenther, b. Dec. 29, 1885, m. Dora Clarkson.
 - b Arthur, b. Sep. 4, 1887; d. Jan. 17, 1888.
 - c Ernst Otto, b. 1889; m. Imagine Treson; Marglise and Arthur Wm.
- ii Anna Franciska, b. Apr. 29, 1869, in Eagle Pass; m. Gustav Giesecke, b. March 28, 1865, Washington, d. Jan. 20, 1936, San Antonio:
 - a Martin Karl, b. Jan. 20, 1889, San Antonio; m. Margaret Coleman (Dr. James Henry and Pearl Stout); Margaret ("Peggy") Coleman, and Cynthia Deane.
 - b Walter Guenther, b. Sep. 2, 1894, San Antonio; m. Romayne Ray (George and Hennie Haggard); S. P.
 - c Emmie Carlotta, b. Oct. 30, 1896, San Antonio; m. Russell C. Hill, whose mother was May Chilton; Roger, Marion, and Craig Chilton.
- iii Gustav, b. Feb. 10, 1871, Eagle Pass; d. March 24, 1872.
- iv Otto, b. March 14, 1873, Eagle Pass; d. June 20, 1903, Mexico.
- v Wilhelmine, b. July 30, 1875, San Antonio; m. Werner Wilkens, b. Jan. 15, 1872, Galveston; d. Dec. 4, 1926, Ft. Worth:
 - a Werner, Jr.
 - iv Gustav Julius, b. Feb. 2, 1878, San Antonio; an administrator of the Chandler estate; S. A.
 - vii Charlotte, b. Jan. 10, 1881, San Antonio; m. William Henry Watlington, bro. of Thomas, who m. Bertha Griesenbeck:
 - a Helen.
 - viii Friedrich Carl, b. July 30, 1883, San Antonio; m. Florence Clarkson:
 - a Clarkson.
 - b Friedrich Carl.
 - c Gustav Julius.
- 5 Emilie, b. Jan. 30, 1834; m. 1854, Adolph Giesecke, b. Nov. 18, 1829, at Clausthal am Harz; 10 ch. of whom:
 - i Gustav, b. March 28, 1865, m. Feb. 9, 1889, Anna F. Groos, above; he d. Jan. 20, 1936; P. See above.
 - ii Adolph.
- 6 Adolph, b. Oct. 19, 1835; lived on Prospect Hill; m. Johanna Brei; Carl, Johanna, Marie, Hedwig, and Anna.
- 7 Hedwig, b. Oct. 31, 1839; m. 1865, at Roundtop, her cousin, Gustav Groos; P. (Germany).
- 8 Wilhelmine, b. Sep. 29, 1843; m. in San Antonio, March 25, 1868, Joh. Fried. Aug. Julius Giesecke, b. Oct. 22, 1838, brother of Adolph:
 - i Ernst, Prof. at A. & M. College;

- m. Hulda Gruene, of New Braunsfels.
- ii Emil, m. Hulda Schmidt, of Eagle Pass; lived in New York.
- ii Linda, m. Emil vom Stein, grand-nephew of Alwine Moureau.

The writer is obliged to the Groos family for these data. The German ancestry and many of the dates were taken from Fr. Otto Groos', "Als der Groosvater die Groosmutter nahm," History of a Nassau-Orange Family, Groos, Marburg, 1895.

II. Friedrich (1), b. in Strass Ebersbach, Germany, Sept. 18, 1827, where he spent several years of his boyhood; he received a good education, graduating as an architectural and civil engineer, Sept. 4, 1848. He came to the United States with his father, three brothers and four sisters, landing in Galveston, November 21. He proceeded to Houston, but as the yellow fever was raging there, he went to the interior, to Fayette County, settling on a farm. In 1850 he came to San Antonio, intending to accept a position as engineer for the government, but found the position already filled. He secured employment, however, in the mercantile firm of *Guilbeau & Callaghan*. The following year he was transferred to Eagle Pass, and there associated with Bryan Callaghan, father of the Mayor of San Antonio, soon becoming a partner in the business. Mr. Groos conducted a number of overland freighting expeditions into Mexico. Several of these trips lasted seven months and were replete with adventure. When Mr. Callaghan died, Mr. Groos received \$2,000. following the settlement of affairs, which he used in the establishment of a business of his own in Eagle Pass. As early as 1854 Friedrich Groos formed a partnership with his brothers, Carl and Gustav, F. Groos & Co., which

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began a general merchandise business in Eagle Pass. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Friedrich Groos went to Monterrey, where he formed a life-long friendship with Evaristo Madero, the grandfather of Francisco I. Madero, President of Mexico. During 1862-1865, he made several trips abroad, but on account of climatic conditions in Monterrey, returned to San Antonio, in 1866, where he lived continuously thereafter, until his death. The firm, F. Groos & Co., gradually developed a simple banking business. In 1874 they removed to San Antonio, "where the mercantile business was soon entirely displaced by the banking activities." In 1897 a new building was erected, the finest of its time, and the first built exclusively for the uses of a bank. "Carl and Gustav Groos having died in the 90's, Frederick Groos continued to operate the bank until 1912 as a private bank. In this year he was persuaded to nationalize the institution, but he also died about the time the National Charter was received, and the Groos National Bank came into existence with Franz Groos as president, and Charles Deussen (who had been with the firm since 1883), as cashier. Frederick Groos was twice a member of the city council. For sometime he was president of the Casino Association, and for 20 years was president of the German-English School, also serving on the S. A. School Board (see Express, Jan. 28, 1912). He died after an illness of 24 hours, at noon, January 27, 1912, at his home, 318 East Commerce St. The funeral was held at 4: o'clock, the following day, at the residence, with burial at City Cemetery No.

1. He m. 1st, Gertrude Rodriguez (d. 1873), of Eagle Pass, by whom:

- i Carlotta, d. 1936, S. A.
- ii Linda, m. Fred Wulff (Torreon, Mexico).
- iii Federico: S. A.
- iv Tullitas, m. J. Nepomuk Ronse, whose father was Governor of Dalmatia, of Belgian origin. Mrs. Ronse, wid., is now living in San Antonio. She has copies of the "Nachrichten ueber die Familie Groos," by Ernst Gisbert Groos, Darmstadt, Vol. III of which, 1935, contains an account of the Texas branch of the family.
- v Carlos, S. P.
- vi Emilie, m. Carl Haarman: Udo and Ilse.
- vii Carolina, m. Conrad A. Goeth, his 1st, wife, graduate in law at the University of Texas, 1890; first in partnership with his classmate, William Wurzbach; now Chairman of the City Water Board. He was 2nd son of Carl Alexander Goeth, b. March 7, 1835, in the free town of Wetzler, Prussia; his grandfather, Ernest Franke was a professor in the royal college of his town, which he attended; he came with his parents to Galveston, landing July 4, 1862; proceeded to Austin Colony, and brought a farm where New Ulm now stands; m. 1859, Otilia, dau. of Adolph Fuchs, who emigrated in 1845; settled first at Cat Springs, and afterwards in the southern part of Burnet County. Carl A. Goeth served in the quartermaster department under Major James McKinney, and as scout to protect the frontier against the Indians, during the Civil War, at the close of which he moved to Cypress Mill, Blanco County (Daniell, "Personnel," 473-475): Fred and Arthur.

Friedrich Groos, m. 2nd, Anna Siemering (d. Sept. 1911):

- viii Clara, b. Nov. 23, 1875 ("Reg. of B.," I, 79); m. Frank Rennert (Julius and Wilhelmine Zuehl), parents of Frank Werner, b. Nov. 9, 1900.
- ix Herman, d. y.
- x Marie, d.: S. A.
- xi Ferdinand, d.: S. A.
- xii Gretchen, d. y.
- xiii Wilhelm.
- xiv Rudolph, m. Mary Pauline Fordtran.
- xv Anna.

BERGSTROM

Karl Bergstrom, b. in Stockholm, Sweden, Feb. 14, 1823; d. in San Antonio, Jan. 1, 1865; m. Otilia von Cederstrom, also b. in Stockholm, Jan. 2, 1830; d. in San Antonio,

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but the stately rotunda remains. And the dining room, where so many distinguished guests and honeymooning couples have been catered to, keeps its atmosphere.

You will find the famous Menger patio as beautiful as ever.

The "Alameda"

East Commerce Street was the center of the German colony. The Alamo Ditch was crossed on a viaduct just east of St. Joseph's Church, and a broad avenue, lined with great cottonwoods, stretched for a space eastward. This had been laid out in Spanish times, and was called the "Alameda," after *alamo* ("cottonwood"). Some prominent German families built their homes along there. One still stands, the first Groos home (No. 314), now St. Joseph's Hall. But most of the old landmarks are gone now.

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ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, on Commerce Street, now surrounded on three sides by Joske's of Texas, is, like St. Mark's Episcopal Church, unique, in that both possess a personality all their own. In this case, the personality is distinctly German. The color scheme could have come straight out of a Bavarian church. The stained-glass windows are, in fact, from Munich. Like St. Mark's, the church owes much to one man. The cornerstone was laid in 1868,

after the German congregation had failed to obtain the use of the Alamo for services; in 1874, Father Henry Pefferkorn was made pastor. This remarkable man painted the murals (the Annunciation and the Assumption) over the side altars. He founded the St. Joseph Society, a benevolent organization, and the *Liederkranz*, a singing society, which flourish to this day. In 1896 he became chaplain at Our Lady of the Lake College.

"The Little Rhein"

The German colony spread down South Alamo Street to La Villita and on beyond.

"That neighborhood south of Commerce Street bridge," wrote Frank Bushick (*Glamorous Days in San Antonio*), "was called the Little Rhein."

The Alamo Street saloons were very different from the mirrored and frescoed liquor saloons in other parts of the city. Patrons dropped in would be waited on by a housemaid, possibly the "mama," a large round-waisted house frau in a comfortable house wrapper, knitting or sewing in the family quarters while she could watch the bar and attend to the business.

There were no six-shooter brass or glass throwing, no vulgarities, in the German saloons of that type. Instead, one's ears would likely catch the blasts and tremors of brass horns and flutes of an itinerant little German band,



Menger Hotel

volunteered singing bass and tenor singing power.

OLD BEETHOVEN
South Alamo, for aesthetic uses since German pre-World War. It "lost face," in South Alamo & considered the in the Southwest burned in immediately rebel heard here; so the first two symphonies organized in 1840, and aged

furnished with antiques, but all are private homes except the Steves Homestead, described below. On special occasions, however, selected houses are open to the public for a tour, sometimes during Fiesta Week.

NUMBER 107. This charming Italian villa near the corner of South St. Mary's was built in 1878 by Anton Friedrich Wulff, who performed the miracle, in the early nineties, of converting the dustbins and mudholes that were San Antonio's plazas into rose gardens. The bust under the eaves is of his daughter, done by his son.

156 **NUMBER 120.** The oldest house on the street, this is an adobe, "done over."

NUMBER 226. The simple, gracious house, the second one built by Ernst Altgelt on his street (the first no longer stands, except the outdoor kitchen, at the rear next door, No. 228) dates from 1878, but looks earlier. Splayed windows and balconies give an effect of modified colonial architecture, sometimes called Monterey Colonial. Mr. and Mrs. George Isbell are present owners.

NUMBER 335. A magnificent example of early Victorian architecture, built in 1880 by Carl Groos, founder of the Groos Na-

tional Bank. The family lived here until recently.

NUMBER 419. Built in 1867 by Colonel Elias Edmunds. All material was brought in by oxcart from Indianola, on the Texas coast. This is the first young ladies' day-and-boarding school in San Antonio. For years it was the school. Occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Otto Potthast.

Washington Street may be entered from King William at the small triangular park, which has at its center the old kiosk, or pavilion, from the Arsenal grounds.

NUMBER 209. Perhaps the most imposing ante bellum house remaining in San Antonio today, it is known as the "Oge House," after George Oge, an old-time ranchman, whose family occupied it until recently. It was built in 1860 by the United States government for the resident general.

NUMBER 213. The age and builder of this old house are unknown. It stood unoccupied for several years before the Groos family made it their home until their own house could be built next door. This was in 1865. Occupied now by Mr. and Mrs. William Watson.

NUMBER 231. Built in 1875 by Gus Groos and still occupied by son and two daughters. Notable planting of native shrubbery.

Steves Homeste
William Street, o
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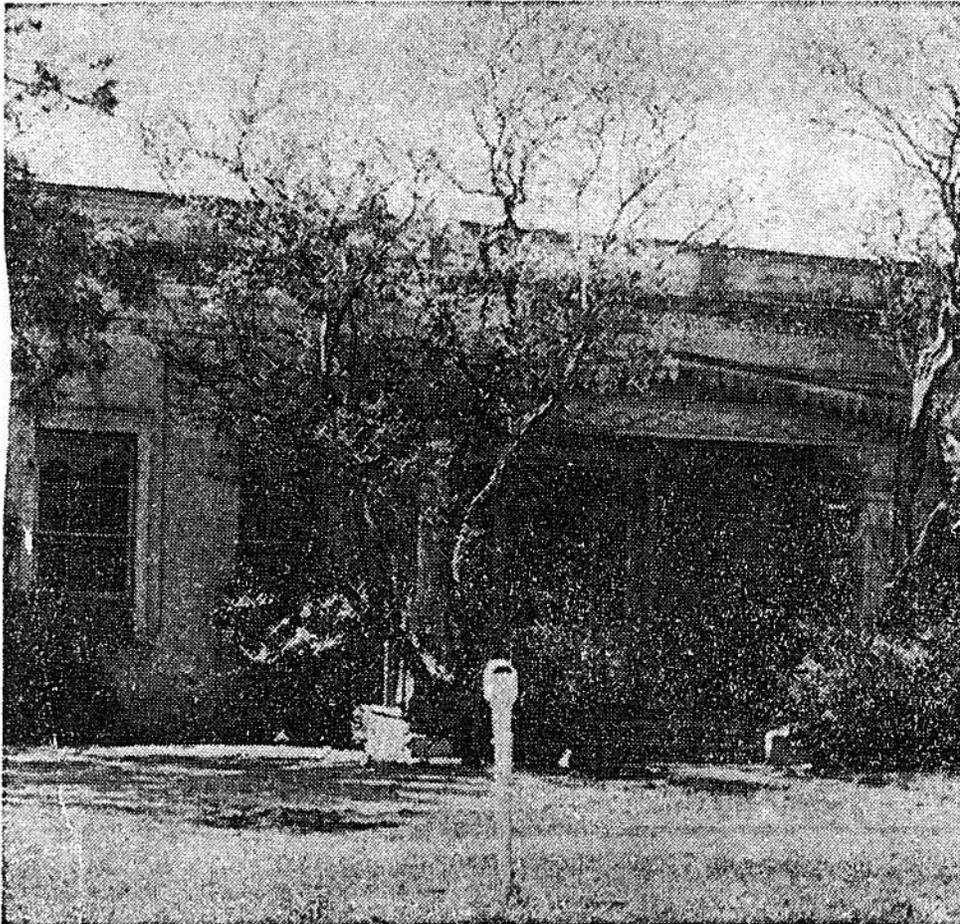
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Oge house, 209 Was



Thursday, Nov. 7, 1968

Comal The Austin American



To Groos Home

Historical Marker Given

American-Statesman Service
NEW BRAUNFELS — The New Braunfels Art Center, built in 1871 as the home of the late Carl Wilhelm August Groos, now bears a historical marker presented by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

Groos built the home a year after his marriage to Hulda Moureau, daughter of a German consul and cotton broker in New Braunfels.

Carl Jockusch, chairman of the board of the Groos National Bank of San Antonio, spoke at the unveiling of the marker for his grandfather's old home.

Carl, Friedrich and Gustav Groos, three brothers who came from Germany to Texas in 1848, founded the bank. The family got a government contract in 1849 to haul freight to Fort Duncan near Eagle Pass.

Carl Groos was the first president of the Groos bank. The four presidents since the bank was chartered in 1912 have been sons or grandsons of Carl Groos.

Also speaking at the unveiling ceremonies at the art center at 228 South Seguin Avenue was Ernest M. Groos Jr., now president of the bank. Mrs. William A. Watson, a granddaughter of Carl Groos, unveiled the marker and the metal plate with its historical interpretation.

The old residence of Neogreek design remains the same as when it was built. The house still has its original cypress doors and six-inch flooring, hand-rolled window glass, ruby glass bordering on the front door and plastered adobe walls.

GROOS HOME REMAINS THE SAME AS WHEN IT WAS ERECTED

The house at 228 Seguin Avenue now is New Braunfels Art Center

