



*Hileman Boarding House, circa 1912.*

### **1 Hileman-Riggs House** 1912

Wilbert S. “Bert” Hileman (1873-1956), a native of Nebraska, built this boarding house (today [Texas Grounds Coffee Company](#)), which his mother-in-law operated, in 1912. Cowboys from Bandera and elsewhere often spent the night at the boarding house before going to market in San Antonio, putting their cattle in fenced pastureland near the town. The original house was Victorian in style, with an L-shaped, two-story porch. The house’s façade was changed by second owners James (1879-1964) and Kate Riggs (1879-1946) using local limestone as seen today.

Hileman came to town in 1908, after purchasing the property and a few buildings then existing in downtown Helotes from Arnold Gugger. Bert and wife Nellie set up house with their five children in the Gugger

Homestead, and Hileman and his wife took over running the Helotes General Store next door.

During the eight years of the Hileman era, Helotes became known as a place to enjoy music and kick up your heels after the businessman built a dance hall he called “Hileman’s Hall [&] Scenic Loop Pool Room in 1913 (now The Helotes Inn).

Hileman spearheaded the effort to get paved roads to Helotes. By 1914, many area families were driving automobiles and trucks. Hileman welcomed the new means of transportation, knowing automobiles would allow people easier (and faster) access to Helotes and his businesses. After his wife became ill in 1916, Hileman sold his Helotes property to the Gottschalck family and moved his family to San Antonio.

