



*John T. Floore in front of the original Floore Country Store, circa 1940s.*

## **2 Riggs Grocery Store**

1920s

James Riggs (1879-1964) erected this building (now the [Helotes Gallery](#)) in the late 1920s and opened a grocery store and meat market, which he and wife Kate Niernberg Logan (1879-1946) operated. During the Great Depression (1929-1939), the couple accepted trade for food and, according to one employee, “Mr. Riggs was like the neighborhood banker. He carried a wad of bills on him and loaned money to people who needed it.”

Riggs and Kate married in 1920. Kate had purchased the property on which the Riggs Grocery Store was built in the summer of 1919 as a “feme sole.” By that time, she was divorced from David Logan, a Scottish immigrant, who in 1912 had purchased a 200-acre

ranch in the San Geronimo area, north of Helotes.

The Riggs moved into the Hileman boarding house next door, making it their residence, and then built the grocery store, which both James and Kate operated until 1942, when John T. Floore (1898-1975) leased the building. Floore opened a Red & White Grocery Store and promptly added his name to the marquee—Floore Country Store. The Red & White Corporation was a chain of independently owned and operated food stores. Small town stores that were part of the franchise purchased food and other products from the corporation and were allowed to add their owner’s or town’s name. Floore operated at this location until 1952, when he opened his “world-famous” dance hall and concert venue across the street.

In 1953, Riggs’ nephew Martin Terry (1920–2000) moved to Helotes with his wife and three children to run the Red & White Grocery Store, which he and wife Uvalda “Valda” (1922-2015) operated until 1962.