The Gatesville Wire

Gatesville, Texas November 3, 2026

LOCAL EDITION

Gatesville: Leon River Mercantile's move gave a long-vacant downtown building new use

Leon River Mercantile moved into a restored 1800s building on Gatesville's square in March 2026. The relocation continued the store's local history while reusing a building that had stood vacant for years.

By Caleb Hayes



A Gatesville retailer's move to the historic downtown square joined two local stories: the continuity of a long-running business and the reuse of a building that had stood vacant for years. Leon River Mercantile relocated into the 1800s-era building in March 2026, then held a grand reopening reported by KWTX on May 16.

The move was a short one geographically—the store relocated "just down the road," according to KWTX—but it placed the business in a different kind of setting. The report says the building had been vacant for years before restoration began in December. The work sought to give the interior a fresh look while retaining features that highlighted the building's history. Those details come from the KWTX report and have not been independently confirmed here.

The business itself has a longer Gatesville history. KWTX reported that it had been in the city for more than 30 years, and that Bolgiano bought it from its original owners in 2013. The store's website describes its offerings as western wear and work wear. Together, those details make this more than a change of address: the business continued under local ownership while taking space in a historic structure that had not been in use for years.

The timing also connects the move to a difficult moment for the square. The report says Leon River Mercantile moved in on March 15, the day before a fire on the square. It does not establish what effect the store's move had on downtown activity, and there is no basis here to claim that it changed the square's recovery. What the reporting does document is a specific instance of a local retailer entering a restored historic building amid that disruption.

For readers, the story offers a concrete look at how a familiar local business can continue in a new space, and how an old building can return to commercial use. It is a snapshot of the move and reopening in spring 2026, not a report on the store's current location or operating status. KWTX's report, published May 16, 2026: https://www.kwtx.com/2026/05/16/leon-river-mercantile-has-grand-re-opening-after-restoring-historic-downtown-gatesville-building/?outputType=amp. The business website, retrieved November 3, 2026: https://www.leonriver.com/.