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TOUR AND SUPPORT FANTHORP INN

Fanthorp Inn is open for public tours Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and for group tours (by reservation) and school events. Tours are free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

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FANTHORP INN STATE HISTORIC SITE

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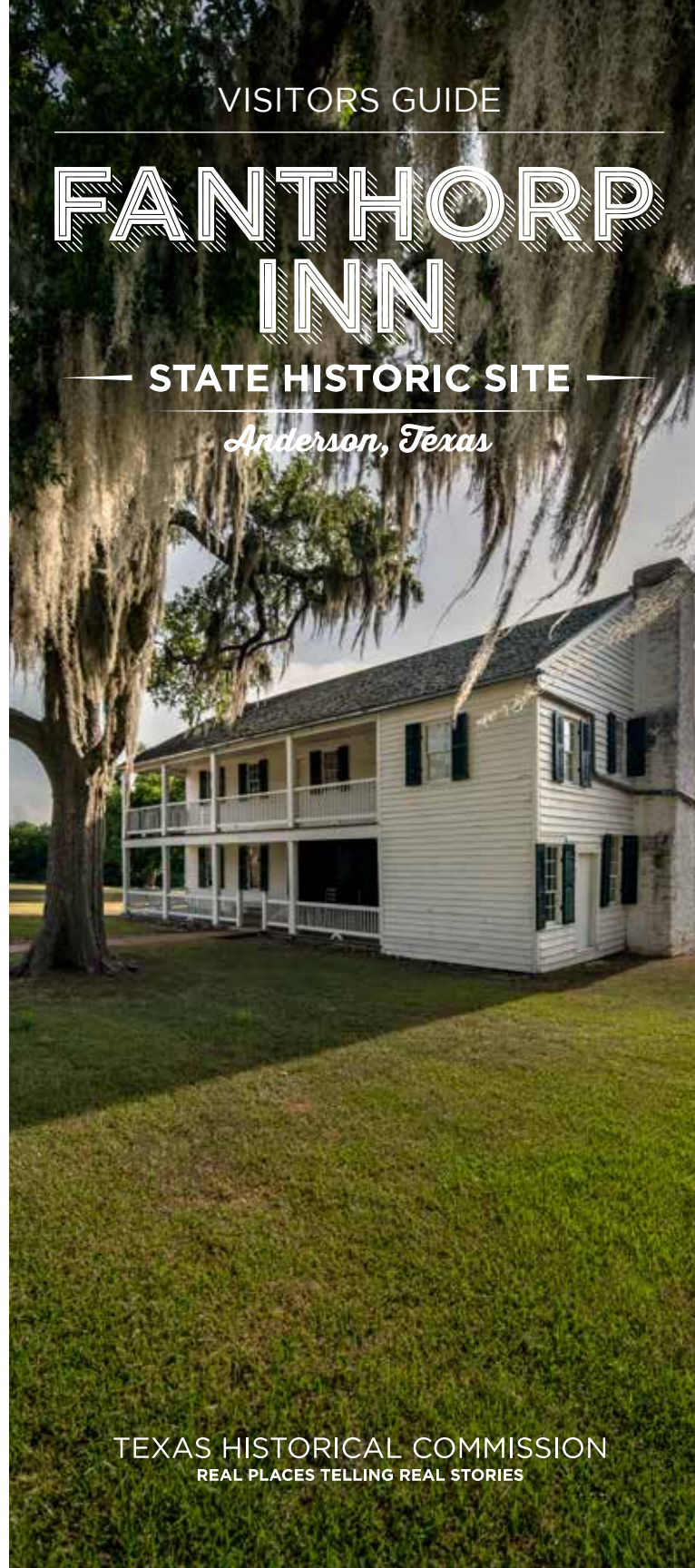
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VISITORS GUIDE

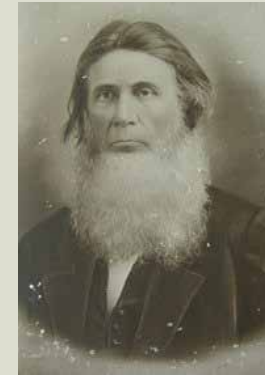
FANTHORP INN

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Anderson, Texas



Welcome to the Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, a historic stagecoach stop and inn which operated from 1834-1868. Here guests can discover the story of one of Texas' most enterprising entrepreneurs, Henry Fanthorp, an English immigrant that contributed to the founding of Anderson, Texas. Fanthorp served as the proprietor of what was once described as "an excellent boarding place, as good, probably as the South affords." Visitors can also get a true sense of what a traveler's experience in 1850s Texas might have been by touring the intricately themed rooms and our reproduction stagecoach.



Henry Fanthorp

Henry Fanthorp had a two-room log cabin constructed prior to marrying Rachel Kennard in 1834. The house rested near the intersection of La Bahia Trail and the Coushatta Trace, providing the financial opportunity to Fanthorp of offering shelter to passing travelers. Fanthorp expanded his inn by adding a second story in the 1840s and building a dining hall with seven additional rooms in 1850. Ever the entrepreneur, Fanthorp contracted with a stagecoach line to make his inn a livery stop for switching out horses and

drivers. The coaches not only transported guests to his inn, but they also carried the mail. By 1835 Fanthorp established his inn as one of the first post offices in the region.

The Fanthorp Inn served as a hotel, stagecoach stop, post office, as well as a lounge, restaurant, general store, ballroom, Masonic lodge, lecture hall, doctor's office, and much more. The inn was the heart of the Anderson community.



Rachel Kennard



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WALKING TOUR

PARLOR

The parlor served as a leisure center for guests of the inn as well as locals and travelers waiting for stagecoach arrivals. Family items include the mantle clock and square game table.



MASTER BEDROOM

This was Henry and Rachel's bedroom. It was also used by the children, John Henry and Mary Ann, until they were old enough to go upstairs or, on occasion,

when the inn was full and guests were using their rooms. The family items include the washstand and the two armoires.

POST OFFICE

Fanthorp established his inn as the first post office in the area in 1835 and sectioned off this part of the front porch to be the post and stage office. Fanthorp served as postmaster until 1840, but the office remained on his property well into the 1850s. Family items include Fanthorp's desk.



GUEST ROOMS

The room below is the common room where multiple guests would share the room and the beds. Down the hall are the private rooms, four out of the six are rooms for guests who stayed at the inn: the land surveyor's room, the mother and children's room, the judge and lawyer's room, and Sam Houston's room.



DINING ROOM

The Fanthorp Inn served food to guests passing through, staying overnight, and locals as well. Fanthorp built a cellar and pantry to keep dry goods for the inn. Punkas (a fan), installed overhead to keep flies away from guests, were likely operated by an enslaved child. According to the 1860 census, Fanthorp had 32 enslaved persons at his property. Over half of them were between the ages of 2 months to 14 years old.

KITCHEN

This is the original foundation for the kitchen. It was kept separate from the rest of the house due to the heat of the hearth and for social separation as Fanthorp had enslaved people prepare and serve the meals for the inn. Jane Beardsley, a guest at the inn in 1851, recalled that Fanthorp provided an early form of room service. She described the inn as "a house full of servants, anything we want we can have brought to us in our room by calling for it."



COST OF COMFORT

In addition to servicing the inn, the enslaved people at Fanthorp Inn were also responsible for maintaining his agricultural holdings. Fanthorp owned over 2,800 acres of land. In 1860 the enslaved harvested 4,000 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, 30 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 10 bushels of oats. He also owned 320 sheep which produced 1,000 pounds of wool and 250 cows which produced 200 pounds of butter.

CORN CRIB

Henry Fanthorp purchased a quarter league of land in 1833. He lived in a small log structure which he also used for corn storage. Careful inspection of the existing log structure indicates it is not the original cabin Henry lived in during his first year on the property, and instead was built or brought in later in the 19th or early 20th century.



BARN & STAGECOACH

This serves as housing for our reproduction stagecoach as well as an exhibit area and public restrooms. The stagecoach is a replica of an 1820s model, much like what might have been used by the H M Black Stage Co in the 1850s.

CEMETERY ACROSS THE ROAD

This is the final resting place for Kenneth Lewis Anderson, the last Vice President of the Republic of Texas as well as Henry and Rachel Fanthorp and other family members.