

Fentroppe Tavern
Anderson, Grimes County, Texas

HABS NO. TEX - 217

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WITH HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Tex 2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsall P. Wallace, District Officer
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas.

FANTHROPE TAVERN
Anderson, Grimes County, Texas

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Owner Mrs. De Seur

Date of Erection 1834

Architect Henry Fanthrope

Builder Henry Fanthrope

Present Condition Bad

Number of Stories Two stories

Other Existing Records

Materials of Construction Weatherboards old cedar logs.

Additional Data: Mr. Henry Fanthrope came to this country from England in 1831-32 (date not certain). He first settled with his wife in Virginia. Within a year death claimed his most cherished possession, his wife. Grief stricken Fanthrope came West seeking diversion. The country about Anderson appealed to him so much that he settled there, buying a quarter league of land from Frances Holland. Having no family Fanthrope's improvements consisted of a log hut of hewn logs about 20 by 20 feet and two stories high. He immediately began buying corn at 50 and 75¢ a bushel, storing it in the lower part of his hut until it was filled. In the fall he sold this same corn for four times what he had paid for it. In 1834 he built a new house of hewn logs with several rooms and a chimney at each end. Upon the completion of this house he married Rachel Kennard, the marriage being by bond, since no Catholic priest was in that section and the Mexican law required that all marriages be performed by a Catholic priest or by bond until a priest came to the settlement. Soon after the Fanthrope's settled in their new home they found themselves in the hotel business. Two stage coach lines met in front of their house at the log stage stop and the passengers constant requests for food and lodging led the Fanthropes into the hotel business. Fanthrope's home was soon known as the Fanthrope Inn and was run as such until his death. Many early Texas notables stopped at his Inn, Sam Houston, Crockett, Ellis Bean, Zachary Taylor and Anderson all stopped there.

It was in Fanthrope Inn that the last Vice President Anderson died, and he is buried across the road from the Inn.