

Harris - Martin House was Yellow now painted White. – National Register of Historic Places
Built in 1837 by John B. Harris, son-in-law of B.B Goodrich, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 . This "New York Row" style house was originally one story, John F. Martin, Jr. owned the property from 1877 until 1892 and is believed to have added the second floor space needed for a large and growing family. John F. Martin, Jr. served four years in the Hood's Brigade in the Civil War. This home was used for a working studio for artist Russell Cushman, then sold to the Shipman family who sold to the current owners the Whitaker Family.

In the historic period, French and Spanish explorers encountered the [Bidai](#) Indians, who were mentioned in Spanish records from 1691. Like other tribes, they suffered high fatalities from new infectious diseases and joined with the remnants of other Native American people later in the historic period.

This area was generally not settled by Europeans and creole Spanish for nearly a century, during [Spanish colonial rule](#). After Mexico achieved independence, it accepted settlers from the United States into eastern Texas. It allowed them to practice their own religion, if they swore loyalty to Mexico.

A few structures in Anderson, such as the [Fanthorp Inn](#), date from this period, as well as from the Texas Republic and early statehood eras. Because of the wealth of structures reflecting this extended historic period, the town and nearby area are designated as the "Anderson Historic District", which is listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).