

# HISTORY OF AUSTIN COUNTY

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The area that is now Austin County was originally home to American Indians, notably the Karankawas. As what is now Texas shifted from French to Spanish to Mexican control, the Austin County area was crossed by the Atascosa Road. The road was a key link from the mission and fort at Goliad to the United States. Austin County became central to early Anglo-American settlement of Texas as the area was picked by Stephen F. Austin to found his first colony. Later, it became home to German then Czech immigrants and to African-Americans, which provided a rich mix of ethnic cultures. Today, Austin County can celebrate its mix of cultures as it preserves the best from its past while absorbing new growth as part of Texas' largest urban region.

Some of the highlights of Austin County history include its selection in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin, now known as the Father of Texas, as the site for his colony, with San Felipe as its headquarters; publication of the first newspaper in Texas, the Texas Gazette; organization of a postal system for Texas; and creation of a Committee of Safety, later to become known as the Texas Rangers.

The first organized opposition to Mexico's rule over Texas came at the Convention of 1832 in San Felipe and from 1835 until 1836 San Felipe was the capital of the provisional government of Texas.

Austin County government as we know it today was formed in 1837.