

Primissarius House

History...

Before the days of public social security and health insurance, care for the poor and the sick was almost entirely in the hands of ecclesiastical institutions and of foundations endowed by the nobility and the bourgeoisie.

For many centuries, the citizens of Dachau also made donations to so-called *benefices*. These were ecclesiastical endowments of capital or land, the income from which was used to fund clergymen holding divine service and doing charitable work. As one such pious endowment, this craftsman's house was made available from the 15th century as a residence for the use of the *primissarius* beneficiary of St James's church.

In return, he was required to celebrate early mass every morning before the townspeople went to work.

Following disputes over the ownership of the house between the local town and church administrations, it was decided in 1893 to make a flat in it available rent-free to a retired priest.

A little under 40 years later, the property, including *a log store, laundry and courtyard, kitchen garden and lawn behind the house*, finally became a private residence.

... and a story

From the early 1920s, there was also a saddlery here. But as the demand for saddles and tack continued to decline, master saddler Josef Mayr switched almost entirely to manufacturing mattresses and also made feather duvets and curtains for his customers.



The *Primissarius* House (2nd left), around 1900



Back in the days when a saddler had much work to do: on the road with horse and gig, around 1900

The picturesque old town of Dachau with its 1200-year history features many sites of historical interest. Special buildings of prominence in the townscape are marked by these historical plaques.

Dachau historical plaques are a joint project by the town of Dachau and the Dachau District Museum.