

At the Barber's

History...

The market town of Dachau was the commercial and administrative centre of the county of the same name, which for a time extended southwards as far as the gates of Munich and included Nymphenburg and Neuhausen. Crafts were the dominant economic activity in the town.

During the Thirty Years' War, this site was variously occupied by a cabinet-maker, a butcher, and a victualler, who also ran a Kocherei (snack bar).

In 1671, his descendants sold the house to a surgeon from Upper Austria.

A surgery was a craftsman's shop and was usually run by a barber-surgeon. It was only in the 18th century that this craft began to be displaced by licensed physicians with a university education. The barber's trade, however, survived until the 20th century, but was now mostly limited to cutting hair and shaving beards.

In 1801, barber-surgeon Ferdinand Bürgmann purchased the stately house for 6,000 guilders. In 1833, it was inherited by his son Jakob. But this "*Chirurgus*" (surgeon) trained in the craft preferred brewing beer and also purchased the neighbouring "*Plantschenbräu*" brewery. There he opened an inn, "*Birgmannbräu*".

The barber-surgeon's property he had inherited was sold to the county physician Dr Hermann Fischer. Following several changes of ownership, the building passed back into the ownership of the Birgmann family.

In 1893, Ferdinand Birgmann had a new building constructed, which he let to an ironmonger. It was demolished in the late 1970s and again a new building was erected.

... and a story

In the town of Dachau, just like in the surrounding villages, for a long time it was not the doctor but the barber who was called to treat wounds that might have been sustained in violent scuffles such as a pub brawl.



"At the Barber's" (right) in Augsburger Strasse, with the Augsburg Gate in the background, before 1891

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.