

# Manhart's House

## Freibank

### History...

Until 1927, "Manhart's House" stood on this site. It was named for the Manhart family of glaziers who lived here for generations.

During the Thirty Years' War, mention was made of an inn here which had a licence to serve "the white beer". At that time, this was a particular privilege, as brewing and serving wheat beer were the sovereign's prerogative and no doubt an abundant source of revenue for the treasury. Demand for wheat beer having declined continually by the end of the 18th century, this state monopoly was discontinued. From then on, anyone was allowed to brew wheat beer.

The house having been used by various craftsmen for several centuries, it was purchased by the Dachau municipality in 1904, which moved the "Freibank" (free bench) here. From the late Middle Ages, so-called *Freibanken* were places where butchers not affiliated with the guild sold low-quality but safe-to-eat meat. Such a point of sale had existed in Dachau since 1811. Its final location was on Herbstberg hill.

### ... and a story

In 1954, the town of Dachau had a fountain erected in the *Pfarrplatz* (church square), where the "Freibank" had been demolished in 1927. It was designed by the sculptor Wilhelm Neuhäuser (1890–1960) and featured a sculpture of St Florian. This Roman soldier was an early Christian martyr who is venerated in the Catholic church as the patron saint of firefighters. As a sculpture on a fountain on this site, he serves to commemorate the catastrophic fires visited on the town of Dachau in past centuries.



View of the Dachau "Freibank" from the south...



... and from the north, around 1905

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.