

Town Hall and Sculptor's House

History...

In the 13th century, Dachau became a market town. At first this merely involved the right to hold a weekly victuals' market with permission to levy a road toll on deliveries of goods to the market. Later, three large annual fairs were added, attracting traders from all over southern Germany. The Wittelsbach dukes also granted the town a degree of self-government by a civic council of four, elected annually and presided over by a county magistrate.

In 1362, the market town of Dachau was granted sealing rights (notarising rights). Now a free market town, it became a "Bavarian *Landstand*" (estate), i.e. a member of the "Bavarian *Landschaft*" (estates) taking part in estates' assemblies (*Landtage*).

In 1412, Dukes Ernst and Wilhelm III conferred the "Law of Munich" on Dachau and thus all the rights, favours, freedoms and good customs granted to Munich, their city of residence, and the other cities and market towns of Upper Bavaria. Now the market town was headed by a mayor elected by the citizenry.

1486 saw the first mention of an associated official building, the "*Rathaus*" (town hall). Modified in 1615, 330 years later it was in danger of collapsing. In 1935, a new building was erected whose design closely followed the previous building.

In the 1960s, the so-called Sculptor's House next to the town hall was demolished. Works by the Tyrolean sculptor Franz Paul Arnold (c.1724–1788), who lived there, can be found in St. James's Church opposite.

In 1974–1976, the town hall was extended westwards according to plans by the architect Werner Fauser. The old town hall from the 1930s and the façade of the "Gingerbread Baker's House" were preserved. A modern wing was built on the site left vacant by the demolition of the "Sculptor's House".

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.

... and a story

Behind the town hall, there once were a dance-hall and a bowling alley. Apparently, town councillors were disturbed in their deliberations by the boisterous merry-making. In 1672, therefore, the council decided to move the bowling alley to the "*Schiesstatt*" (shooting range) outside the town and for bowling behind the town hall to be permitted only at the parish fair, at weddings and at the annual fairs.



The old town hall of 1615 with ridge turret (a small bell tower); next to it the "Sculptor's House" and the "Gingerbread Baker's House" (far right), around 1930



"Rhatsprothocoll" (council minutes) of the electoral market town of Dachau from 1655, bound into a mediaeval handwritten music score, Dachau municipal archive