

# Schnaitbäck Wittmann's Corn-chandler's

## History...

After the baker Michael Schneid had purchased this locksmith's property in 1670 and established a bakehouse, the site was known as "Schnaitbäck" ("Schnait the Baker's"). From then on, bread and rolls were baked here for centuries.

In 1805, the baker Franz Xaver Schmid of the local "Steinmühle" (Stone Mill) opened a corn-chandler's shop. Half a century later, only the corn-chandler's shop remained in the house.

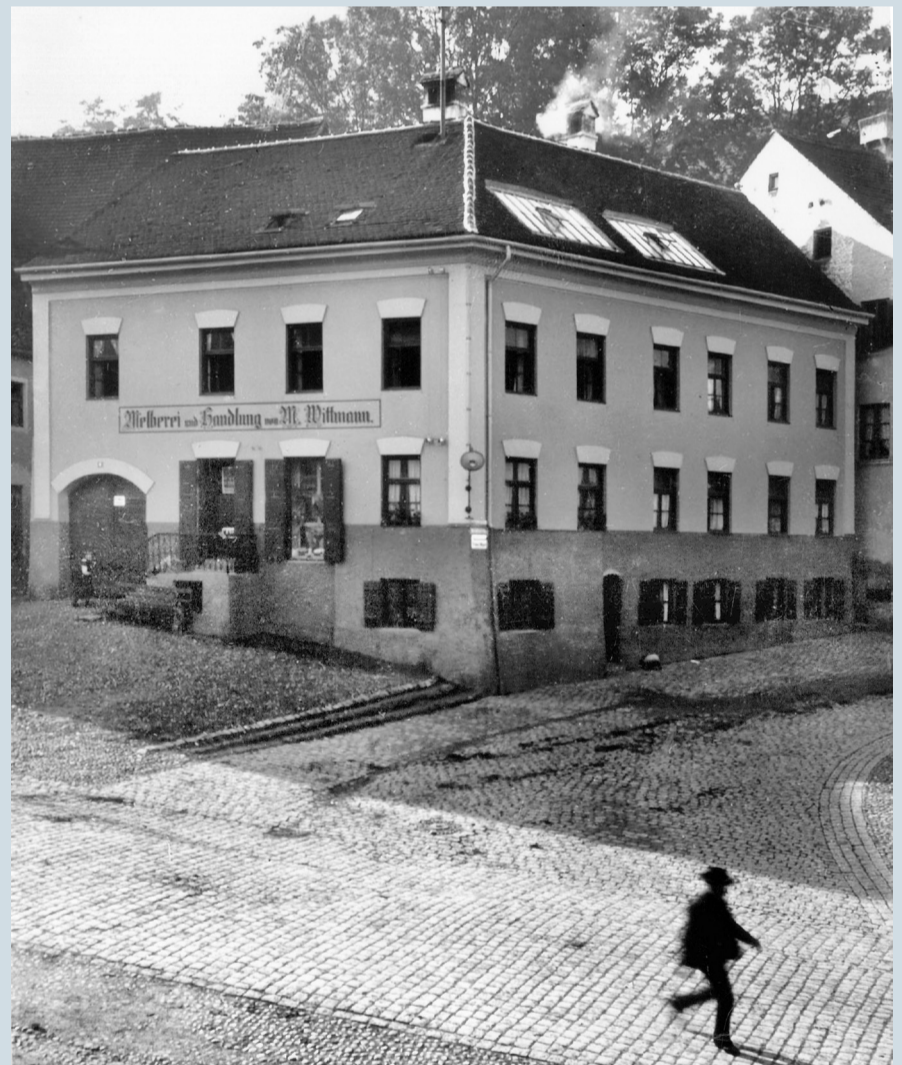
In 1880, the miller's son Josef Wittmann of the "Würmmühle" and his wife Maria purchased the stately corner building along with its barn and wash-house. But Maria Wittmann was soon widowed and now had to provide for herself and her children: she diversified the corn-chandler's shop, adding regional and colonial groceries, tobacco, and postcards. The many artists in the town bought their painting and drawing utensils from her.

The house – now in the family for four generations – continued to see different uses over the years. It was variously home to a photographic studio, a chemist's, a greengrocer's, a pharmacy, and a dry-cleaner's.

## ... and a story

The "Corn-chandler's" was also a hostel. The two studios in its attic were often rented by aspiring young painters from Scandinavia, earning the caring landlady Maria Wittmann the nickname *Swedish mother* among the local artists.

The painter Ernst Norlind (1877–1952), who was a pupil of Adolf Hölzel (1853–1934) in Dachau from 1901 to 1903, remembers: *More and more the shop became a place where artists gathered in the evening to chat among themselves or with Mrs Wittman and discuss the events of the day. Mrs Wittmann proved to be an excellent mother confessor for young art students.*



"M. Wittmann's Corn-chandler's and Grocer's Shop", 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.

