

Hardwig's Smithy

History...

A smithy existed here for over 400 years. Besides shoeing horses and manufacturing and repairing hardware for everyday use, it was at times probably also used for forging weapons. This is attested by a *Bihänder* (two-handed sword) from the late Middle Ages found here and kept at the local District Museum.

As late as the 19th century, the house was known as Beim Schmiedhansl ("at Jack the Smith's") after the profession and name of its owner. House names were used for orientation where there were no street names and house numbers and were widespread in rural areas well into the 20th century.

In 1999, the house was sold and the smithy closed down.



"Hardwig's Smithy" in Klosterstrasse, around 1920

... and a story

Day in and day out, an open fire was blazing in the forge: a constant risk of fire damage to the building. The house was last destroyed by a conflagration in 1853. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the two master blacksmiths, Josef and Jakob Hardwig, joined the "Dachau Volunteer Fire Brigade", founded in 1869, as active members.



A relic from bygone days:
wrought-iron *Bihänder*,
16th century

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.