

Eisenfronfeste Kreichgauer's House

History...

Until the Middle Ages, justice was dispensed in Dachau at the open-air *Landschranne* (county bench). Death sentences, however, were passed by an itinerant *Blutrichter* ("blood judge").

In the 16th century, Duke Wilhelm V had an "*Eisenfronfeste*" (soccage fort) erected here, an official building including a prison. The prisoners were mostly felons, the sentencing of which was part of the duties of the county magistrate until the 19th century. Feeding the prisoners was the responsibility of the neighbouring inn-keepers.

The present building dates from 1834 when a larger office building with prison was built, the neighbouring buildings having been demolished. Just under 80 years later, the prison cells were moved to the new District Court on Schlossplatz. The old prison was sold to district court counsel Wilhelm Kreichgauer, who had it converted into a residential building. Since then it has been known as "Kreichgauer's House".

In the 1990s, the building, now listed, was renovated from the bottom up and a modern extension was added.

... and a story

In August 1679, the Dachau whittawer Simon Kreitmayr, convicted of poaching, had to serve a prison sentence here. His wife was probably not much saddened by this: she, meanwhile, had *spent day and night with soldiers and guzzled and drunk with them*. For this she received a far more shameful punishment: on account of her immoral lifestyle, she was led through the town in a pillory in full gaze of the public.



"Kreichgauer's House" (left) on the site of the former *Eisenfronfeste* and the newly erected "Hörhammer's Maltings" (right, in background), postcard 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.