



# EGGERHAUS

*Altmünster*

## In a nutshell

### Preliminary remarks:

This text presents, in a much abridged form, the "resurrection" of the "Eggerhaus", that is the old dwelling of the farmstead "Eggerhof" (EH p.3 et seq.). Page references with the abbreviation "EH" refer to the 56-page guide "Das Eggerhaus in Altmünster" by Gunter Dimt (Altmünster 2004). The outbuildings listed at the end of this brief are not yet included in the guide, as they were gradually added later.

### The "Eggerhaus project"

To save it from destruction, the "Eggerhaus" (the old residential building of the "Ecker" or "Egger obs Moos" - farmstead named after its former owners: the Ecker/Egger family) situated at the foot of the Grasberg, approx. 3km from its current location - EH p. 8 et seq.) was accurately surveyed in 1996, documented in every detail and carefully dismantled. Rebuilt with its original components from 1998 to 2003, it is serving as a museum for 18th and 19th century architecture and interior design, and as a venue for cultural, business or private events since its opening on 16 August 2003 (EH p. 10 et seq.). The first outbuildings were added in the years thereafter: the "Eggerstadl", a former barn from the "Seilergütl" (an estate near Linz) in 2008, the connecting archway in 2009, the granary ("Troadkasten") from the Viechtau in 2016, and the barn extension with toilet facilities, a storage room, and a kitchenette in 2018.

### History

The origins of the farmstead date back to the Middle Ages, the first mentions being around 1500 (EH p.3). The residential part received its present external form around 1700, when the log structure was added to the former single-storey house, and the front part of the ground floor - originally made of wood - was replaced by a brick wall. The interior of the house also underwent several changes in the 19th century. The hallway, for instance, was fitted with a vaulted ceiling and, following the construction of a stove in the living area, the fireplace in the house's utility room ("black or smokey kitchen" reserved for cooking and heating) was replaced by a baking oven. From the middle of the 20th century, the entire farmstead was extensively converted and modernised.

### The façade

During the surveying and documentation of the house, façade paintings from three periods were discovered, which were reapplied to illustrate the building's evolution. The painting with the plant ornaments on the north-west side (entrance side) dating from the 16th century features on the oldest part of the house. The somehow heavy ashlar painting on the south-east side (former courtyard side) was applied in the 17th century, and the loose diamond ashlar painting on the south side dates back to the 18th century. It's the latter that gives the Eggerhaus its distinctive appearance (EH p. 38 - 46).

### The log house

It was built around 1700; it has remained complete and very well preserved to this day, so that hardly any repairs were necessary. The sleeper beams (the lowest layer of the log house) were hewn from larch, the rest of the log house is made of spruce. The longest parts of the log house are around 15 metres long (those of the roof truss are around 17 metres long). An interesting detail are the differently shaped wooden joints on the north-west side, the "shaped notching" - a distinctive mark of the joiner, which probably also possess a magical significance. The windows have a "foot-format" and are secured with an iron spike. Though the "Schrotgang" - the balcony or "wood joinery gangway" - on the former courtyard side had been removed earlier, it was authentically reconstructed to its full glory thanks to some remaining components.

### The ground floor

As a rule, one will enter the Eggerhaus through the foyer in the extension designed as an entrance hall. This is where the public sanitary facilities and the private office and archive rooms are also located. The **event hall** with its elaborate lighting was deliberately designed to be modern and multi-functional (EH p. 12, 15). It replaces the part of the building that was probably used for farming supplies and equipment, but whose original condition could no longer be reconstructed due to a conversion carried out in the 1950s. In 2015, the multi-purpose room was fitted with a beautiful authentic cocklestove from the mid-19th century and an old wooden floor. As a result, it blends in better with the "overall architecture". From the event hall, which is available for hire and can accommodate up to 80 people, one can access the lower **hallway** and thus the actual "museum part" of the building (EH p. 17 et seq.). An interesting feature are the impressive basket-handle arches (which replaced the old wooden ceiling in the first half of the 19th century), the two 18th-century doors with their massive wrought iron locks, the "summer table" (a more pleasant dining place during the hot season thanks to the draught) and the two display cabinets containing artefacts. The **parlour** (EH p. 18 - 20) with its 18th-century "Riemlingdecke", or wooden beam ceiling, can accommodate up to 25 people, and houses furniture and items from the second half of the 19th century, including a typical regional cocklestove made of green, organ-shaped tiles. The parlour can be rented, just like the ground-floor

hallway. The interior design of the adjoining **smaller parlour** (EH p. 21 - 23) points out to the late 19th century. One can access the house's former utility room reserved for cooking and heating – the **black or smokey kitchen** ("Rauchkuchl", EH p. 24 - 25) - through the old door with its baroque fittings. A fully functional brick oven was built on top of the former open fireplace, and the trapdoor leads into the storage cellar; the chimney is once again used for curing.

### **The upper floor**

The steep staircase leads to the **upper hallway** (EH 26). This area features a two-door "Bandlwerkkasten" (local rustic wardrobe with painted symmetrical ornaments) and an undated chest from Grasberg or Gmundnerberg, a plank for the "Brotsimperl" (breadbaskets) and a brick flue covered with stones, which probably never functioned very well in the first place. Through a low door, one can access the **main parlour**, the cultural and historical centrepiece of the house (EH p. 28 - 32). It houses the old original furniture from the first half of the 18th century - two "Polsterkasten" (regional rustic wardrobes), two four-poster beds, a small corner cabinet, and a table with two armchairs - in their original layout. All evidence available suggests that the furniture was made by renowned cabinetmaker Simon Pühringer, who assembled them on the spot ("in der Stör"). The adjoining **drying chamber** ("Dörrstube" or "Haarstube"), half of which is located above the black kitchen, was used for drying herbs, wool and textiles which hanged from rods on the ceiling (EH p. 32 - 33). The fixtures include a large chest, painted to match the parlour's furniture, and some textile production equipment. The path back through the hallway leads to a **smaller parlour** (EH p. 34 - 35). The furnishings from the first half of the 19th century - a bed (also from the old Ecker farmstead) with a display of the holy image of Maria Zell, a single-door wardrobe and a chest - feature paintings that are characteristic of the Biedermeier period. Also interesting are geometric elements such as circular and semi-circular shapes on the door frames, which may have a magical meaning. On the other side of the hallway, a door leads to the balcony ("**Schrotgang**") on the courtyard side, which houses beehives and was once used to dry flax, herbs etc. (EH p. 36). From the hallway, one can also enter the "**weaving room**", which - judging by the residues in the floor and walls - was used for domestic weaving, and the adjoining **chamber** (EH p. 36 - 37). Today, these two rooms are primarily used for various special postings and small temporary exhibitions.

### **Auxiliary buildings:**

#### **The historic "Eggerstadl" (Egger barn) with adjoining sanitary and kitchen area**

The old barn of the "Seilergütl", a former farmhouse and inn in the Linz area, dates back to the 19th century, and matched the Eggerhaus in terms of structure (post and beam construction, vertically boarded on the outside) and size (roughly like the barn of the old Eckerhof, which no longer exists). It was dismantled in 2006, and reconstruction began in autumn 2007. Since the opening of the provincial exhibition in 2008, the Eggerstadl has served as an additional event venue. A wooden extension with sanitary facilities, a small kitchen and storage room were added to the barn in December 2018.

#### **The archway**

The brick arch with the large courtyard gate was built in 2009, creating a link between the "main house", i.e. the actual "Eggerhaus", and the barn. The meadow in front of the Eggerhaus, now a popular venue for events, is now framed by the barn, the archway, the main house and the storage shed, which shelter the venue from the wind.

#### **The historic granary**

The granary ("Troadkasten" in the local dialect) stood at the "Vordere Gassen" farm in the Viechtau near Neukirchen and was built in the middle of the 19th century as a log structure with undercut dovetail joints. It was used by the "Gassen farmer" and his neighbours to store grain ("Troad" in local dialect). It was dismantled in 2010 and was re-erected in the Eggerhaus in 2016.

#### **The storage shed**

The storage shed (built in the first half of the 20th century, therefore not actually a "historic" building, i.e. not part of the museum) used to belong to the so-called "Blaslhof" situated opposite the Eggerhaus building site. The old farmstead was demolished in 1999 - 2000 and replaced by a modern outbuilding of the neighbouring SOS Children's Village. The dilapidated shed was renovated in 1998 and is still used today as workshop and warehouse.

**Translation into English:** Carine Puttevils

Further information can be found in the guide "**DAS EGGERHAUS IN ALTMÜNSTER**" (Altmünster 2003, 56 pages) and in the comprehensive, richly illustrated documentation "**EGGER OBS MOOS - EIN BEISPIEL INTERDISZIPLINÄRE BAUFORSCHUNG**" (Linz 2000, 180 pages). Both publications are by Gunter Dimt and are available at the Eggerhaus.

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