Dear visitors,

On this walking trail through Freistett, you will find 19 stations with local historic significance. They stretch on a distance of 3 kilometres inside of the village of Freistett.

The historical events of each station are explained on the spot with text boards. More detailed information is described in a trail booklet, which is available at the town hall.

The richly documented booklet shows the architectural changes with the help of historic pictures and it delivers an insight into the structural development of the village of Freistett.

We wish you to enjoy this discovery and we hope that you will spend a nice and informative day in Freistett.

Your homeland cultural heritage confederation (Heimatbund) of Freistett

Attention! Important indication:

Average time to do the 3 km tour by bike: 1 hour, walking: about 2 hours.
The leaflet is also available in German and in French.

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Heimatbund Freistett e.V.

16 *Museum of local history*



The half-timbered house of the former Kückh'schen Company dating back to the Wilhelminian time of Neufreistett and threatened with collapse, has been reconstructed into the museum of local history of the Stadt Rheinau. It was inaugurated on 20. July 1990 in the context of the *Heimattage* (Hometown-days).

17 *Railway station*



In 1890, the construction works for a tram line from Strasburg to Bühl through Lichtenau began. With the connection of the Hanauerland to the tramway network, people hoped for a bigger distribution of local produces and above all in Strasburg. The inaugural drive of the „MEG" by the Grand Duke Friedrich I. took place on 4. January 1892.
From 1966 to 1968, the rail traffic between Kehl, and Freistett and respectively between Bühl and Freistett, has progressively been suspended.

18 *Brickmakers road Zieglerstraße*



There used to be four brick-yards in Freistett, and one was located in Neufreistett. The last brickyard was operating until 1919. Bricks and tiles were at first used for church buildings and especially for the construction of the city of Neufreistett and during the years before the First World War, brickworks were extremely important.

19 *Drier (Dörrhaus) in the Kronenstraße*



In the so-called hemp drier, people used to dry the hemp stems over an open fire, so that later in the action of crushing, the bast fibres came out more easily from the woodish stems. Since that task with fire was not without danger, driers used to be built outside the villages. That is also what happened with the drier erected by Friedrich Hänßler and the Löwen publican Hauß in 1852. When the hemp culture declined, due to increasing tobacco culture, the drier was no longer used and it was sold in 1877. At the place of the drier, two house compounds were finally built.

Plan of the walking trail:



Restaurants:

1. Zum Goldenen Anker
2. Roter Ochsen
3. Lokalbahn
4. Eiscafe Taormina
5. Zum Waldhorn
6. Ku-Stall

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Fax +49 (0) 78 44-400-13

Editor: **Heimatbund Freistett e.V.**
www.heimatbund-freistett.de

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1 *Mill (Rundmühle)*



It was built in 1865 by Johann Urban and used for the treatment of hemp. It totally burned down in 1883. Later on rebuilt with three grinding-stones, a malt-mill and a threshing-machine activity. In 1902 the mill from Müller Max Rund was purchased (Rundmühle) and in the following period it expanded as one of the biggest mills in the Hanauerland. In 1968 the mill activity hat to cease. Today the building is used as residential house. The turbine and the weir have been activated again.
A second mill was located upstream the Rundmühle in the Stockfeld area. The Stockfeld-mill has been built in 1795 as an oil mill and from 1801 on, they kept it as a flour mill.

Shipyard Karcher

It is told in local literature, that in the previous times, wooden boats had already been built by the river Mühlbach north of the mill Rundmühle. At that location, Georg Karcher laid the cornerstone in 1864 and developed the shipyard so that it became the most important company of that time in Freistett. In 1925 began the construction of the first steel boats in the shipyard (Herold 280 T.). The shipyard is located since 1946 at the Groschenwasser by the Rhine.

2 *Heidenkirchel (St.-Nikolaus-Kapelle)*



Historical origin of Freistett. In 828 first mention of „Fregistat" in the documents. After the 30-years War and until 1950, the chapel was used as a storage and woodshed. Thanks to the efforts of Martin Wiederrecht (honorary citizen) the chapel was restored and used as a chapel. In the tower, the Martin Wiederrecht Room pays a tribute to the honorary citizens. (Creation of the Heimatbund: 4. 3. 1949)

3 *Krämerstraße*



This area used to be the border between the former villages of Nieder– and Oberfreistett. The citizens of Niederfreistett lived mostly of fishing, shipbuilding and trade, whereas most of the citizens of Oberfreistett were farmers.
In 1564 the two villages were definitively united, after they had been united and separated before on several times.

4 *Harbour bridge Hafnerbrücke „Hafenbrücke"*



As soon as 1757, there used to be a bridge at this place, which was identified on a plan as the bridge of the village. Above all, thanks to that harbour bridge, one could reach the once important harbour of the Rhine. The way to the harbour was newly built in 1820/21. The winding course of the road stayed so ever since.

5 *Men Street „Herrengasse „ Rheinstraße*



From the corner of the Zieglerstraße down to the Post Office at the Herrengasse, it was called so because of the big farms. „Wealthy people, several two-storey half-timbered houses."
At the north end, there used to be the first common cemetery.

6 *Guesthouse zum Salmen and former dairy*



The „Gasthaus zum Salmen" belonged to the oldest hostelry in Freistett. The first known evidence of the guesthouse is an entry in the church register dating back to the year 1672, in which a Mathias Sommer is referred to as landlord. The property was purchased by Jacob Durban from Rheinbischofsheim, who built the residential house in its current form in 1827. The dairy built in 1934 is today the Post Office.

7 *Island*



At the south-west corner of the house Inselstraße 15, you can see a flood mark dated 1896. Until the beginning of the 19th century, the Kückh'sche canal flowed into the Galgenbach above Freistett. This artificial canal flowed in the east-west direction. As a consequence, when there were floods, that canal also received the waters of the Maiwald streams, which flowed altogether in the Galgenbach. Serious flooding happened all the time in the low areas next to the Galgenbach.

8 *Guesthouse „Zum goldenen Anker"*



This house was built in 1710 as the Schoolhouse and later it was used as well as the „common house" (Town hall). However, a general school obligation was only introduced in 1804. As soon as 1804, people complained about the bad condition of the schoolhouse, because it was so deep in the water.
A new school was built no sooner than 1841 between today's city hall and the church.
The town hall was located until the year 1871 in the current Inselstraße (today „Gasthaus Goldener Anker").

9 *The Mirille Property (about 60 ha big)*



On 21. August 1725, Abraham Mirille from Strasbourg, father in law of the councillor of commerce Kückh, bought it at an auction. The estate is referred to for the first time in 1600 and expanded from the church to the current B 36 and comprised a fruit orchard with 500 fruit trees as well as several buildings and two Meierhäuser were located behind today's dwelling house. Built in 1691, it is probably the most ancient house in Freistett. The former Meierhof belongs today to the Haus family. The stately dwelling house is what is left from the former vast estate.

10 *Town hall*



In 1739, right next to his first dwelling, the councillor of commerce Kückh had a big two-storeys administration building erected for his extending trading company. In 1783 the Restaurant „Zum Goldenen Anker" was installed in the building, which was from then on property of the Wolf family. Until the year 1871, the „common house", today a restaurant ("Zum Goldenen Anker"), was located in the current Inselstraße. After the township purchased the property, it underwent reconstruction according to the needs of the Administration. For the economy building, see „Farnebarn/bullstable, former fire station". In 1933/34 the Mayor August Anthonj had the townhall fundamentally rehabilitated and extended. The external walls of the second floor have been replaced by visible half-timbered work.

11 *St.-Georgs-Kirche*



From the 13th C. on, the villagers of Freistett went to church in Bischhofsheim. Freistett became a parish in May 1579. At this place of the former St.-Georgs-Kapelle, a church was built around 1581. The construction of a new church was decided in 1741. The nave which was attached to the old tower, was built in the first place. The new tower has only been erected 50 years later, in 1790. In 1968, five new bells were cast, so that the chimes of Freistett with a total of six bells are the biggest of the whole Hanauerland country.

12 *Former parish house*



As Freistett became a parish, the village got its first own parish house. It was built under Earl Graf Philipp IV. von Hanau-Lichtenberg in 1578. A new parish house was built in 1762, which stood at the point of the current schoolyard until the demolition in 1968.
That parish house was the birthplace of Karl Ludwig Schulmeister – the master spy of the french emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.
Karl Ludwig Schulmeister was born on 5. August 1770 as the son of the pastor Johann Gottfried Schulmeister.
He died on 8. May 1853 and is buried in the St.-Urban-Cemetery in Strasburg.

13 *Town border Freistett/Neufreistett*



In the area of the current market place, ran the erstwhile border between the village Freistett and the city Neufreistett.
The city Neufreistett was founded in 1745. Initiator was the councillor of commerce Georg Daniel Kückh from Strasburg. Together with the granted municipal law, there were market rights. The city Neufreistett was integrated into the township of Freistett in 1929.
Until 1942 many Jewish denizens were native to Neufreistett. The peak was reached in 1885 with 84 Jewish inhabitants.
Around 1803 a Synagogue was erected at the point of the current memorial stone.
Opposite to the Synagogue, a Hebrew school was located at the current Freiburger Straße 6.

14 *The canal of Sir Kückh*



In order to carry the wood from the Black Forest to the Rhine, a floating canal from Freistett through the Maiwald and to Gamshurst was created, where the so-called „Kückh'sche Kanal" flows into the Acher river. In 1747 the Kückh'sche Floating Company got the right to thrust the wood during 24 years. In 1774 the merchandise of the Kückh'sche Company was opened to bankruptcy proceedings.
The former canal was partly preserved until the 1970ies and it ran piecewise where the current L87 is situated today.

15 *Jewish cemetery*



The Jewish cemetery was created in 1816 and was for more than 120 years long the burial place for the Jews of Freistett, Lichtenau, Rheinbischofsheim, Bodersweier and Kehl. Before 1816, families had to bury their deads in the cemetery of Kuppenheim.