

= Schulze Baking Company Plant =

Schulze Baking Company Plant is a factory building located on the South Side of Chicago , Illinois , United States . It is located at 40 East Garfield Boulevard (also described as 55th Street and Wabash Avenue) in the Washington Park community area in Cook County . Built in 1914 , the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 12 , 1982 . Originally built for the Schulze Baking Company , it was the home of the Hostess Brands ' Butternut Bread until 2004 .

The building features a terra cotta exterior with ornamentation that pays tribute to Louis Sullivan . The original flooring is made of reinforced concrete . In the early 21st century , the building fell into a state of disrepair . In 2016 , however , a developer stated that the building was being rehabilitated for adaptive reuse in 2017 and following years as a data center .

= = Location and function = =

The building is located between the western edge of Washington Park and the Dan Ryan Expressway along a section of Garfield Boulevard that formerly hosted prominent businesses such as the Wanzer Milk Company and the Schulze Baking Company . The area has suffered from economic decay and crime . One of the few significant remaining businesses in the old Black Belt was the Butternut Bread Company , which occupied the building .

According to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency , it currently functions as an Industry / Processing / Extraction - processing site , and its original historical function was as an Agriculture / Subsistence - processing site .

= = Baking company = =

Schulze with its signature Schulze Butternut Bread formed the starting company that eventually became Interstate Bakeries Corporation / Hostess Brands . The business was once Chicago 's largest wholesale business entity . Although , according to Form 10 @-@ K filings by the Interstate Bakeries Corporation with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission , the Schulze Baking Company was not formed until 1927 , many records contradict this claim . Historical accounts of Chicago claim that Paul Schulze , 1910 @-@ 11 president of the National Association of Master Bakers , started the Schulze Baking Company in 1893 with his brothers . Interstate 's own company history even confirms the 1893 beginning of Schulze .

In 1912 , prior to the construction of the plant , the company had four baking plants throughout the city of Chicago and general offices in the Chicago Stock Exchange Building on LaSalle Street in the Chicago Loop . In the 1910s , the company had extensive legal battles regarding protecting its trademarks .

In 1921 Paul Schulze sold control of the company to Ralph Leroy Nafziger . In 1930 Nafziger announced the formation of Interstate Bakeries through the merger of Schulze Baking and Western Bakeries of Los Angeles to form Interstate Bakeries . Schulze and Western continued to maintain their own separate companies under the Interstate umbrella until 1937 when Schulze formally became Interstate .

Paul Schulze went on to operate small bakeries elsewhere under the name of Schulze and Burch Biscuit Company .

= = Architecture = =

The building is a white terra cotta structure designed by John Ahlschlager in 1914 for the Schulze Baking Company . The terra cotta walls were five storeys high . The building featured blue lettering , foliated cornice ornamentation , and stringcourses of rosettes . The building uses 700 windows grouped to complement the ornamentation 's allusion to themes of nature and purity . The ornamentation is considered abstract , Sullivanesque and modern . The company used Apron

conveyor manufactured by the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company of Columbus , Ohio . A lengthy low industrial complex extends northward behind the main five @-@ story building .

The structure has a flat concrete slab floor with four @-@ way reinforcement designed to support 300 pounds per square inch (2 @,@ 100 kPa) . The dimensions of the building 298 feet 4 inches (90 @.@ 93 m) by 160 feet (49 m) and it is composed of floor space segmented into 17 feet 6 inches (5 @.@ 33 m) by 20 feet (6 @.@ 1 m) . The second floor is 9 inches (23 cm) thick except in the 7 feet 6 inches (2 @.@ 29 m) square surrounding each column where it is 14 inches (36 cm) thick .

As of late 2008 , the building was showing signs of wear , disrepair and neglect . At least one terra cotta cornice was missing , and the building had numerous walkway coverings to protect passersby from falling debris such as further terra cotta loss . One side wall was propped up with wood beams at 45 degree angles . In addition , the building had some graffiti markings . However , developer Ghian Foreman stated in February 2016 that the rehabilitation of the former Shulze Baking Company plant into a data center , to be called the Midway Technology Center , was on schedule for operation in 2017 . The adaptive reuse project allegedly involved the investment of more than \$ 130 million .