



FACTSHEET

HISTORY OF THE GUINNESS STOREHOUSE BUILDING

The Storehouse was erected between 1902 and 1904. It was built by Arthur Guinness Son & Co. Ltd for use as a fermentation house. Fermentation is the last stage of the brewing process where yeast is added to the boiled mixture of barley, water, hops and allowed to ferment.

The Storehouse building is 125 feet high, 170 feet long and 151 feet wide.

The building is reputedly the first steel framed building in the British Isles to be built in the Chicago style, whereby the walls act as a barrier to the elements with steel girders forming the main structure of the building. The second such building to be built in this manner in the British Isles was the Ritz hotel in London.

The Chicago School were a group of architects based in Chicago led by Frederick Bauman and William le Baron Jenny, who built high rise buildings without using the heavy load bearing walls frequently used during that period.

The steel for the building was provided by Sir William Arrol and Company who was also responsible for the steel on the Firth of Forth railway bridge in Scotland.

The Storehouse was converted into a sterile plant in the 1950s when the wooden tuns (large vessels to hold fermenting beer made of oak or pine) were replaced by aluminium ones. The Storehouse housed the largest tun in the world, which had a capacity of 7,800 barrels of beer. The overall capacity of the Storehouse in 1960 was 39,300 barrels.

By the 1980s, the plant was over 30 years old and unsuitable for adapting to modern brewing processes. The decision was made to relocate the fermentation plant to a new facility elsewhere on the St. James's Gate site and the Storehouse finally closed its doors in 1986.

In October 1997 plans were accepted to develop the Storehouse into a public visitors' centre. The visitor experience took four years to create and was opened as Guinness Storehouse, the home of Guinness, in December 2000.

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If you have any further questions about the history of Guinness, please contact the Guinness
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