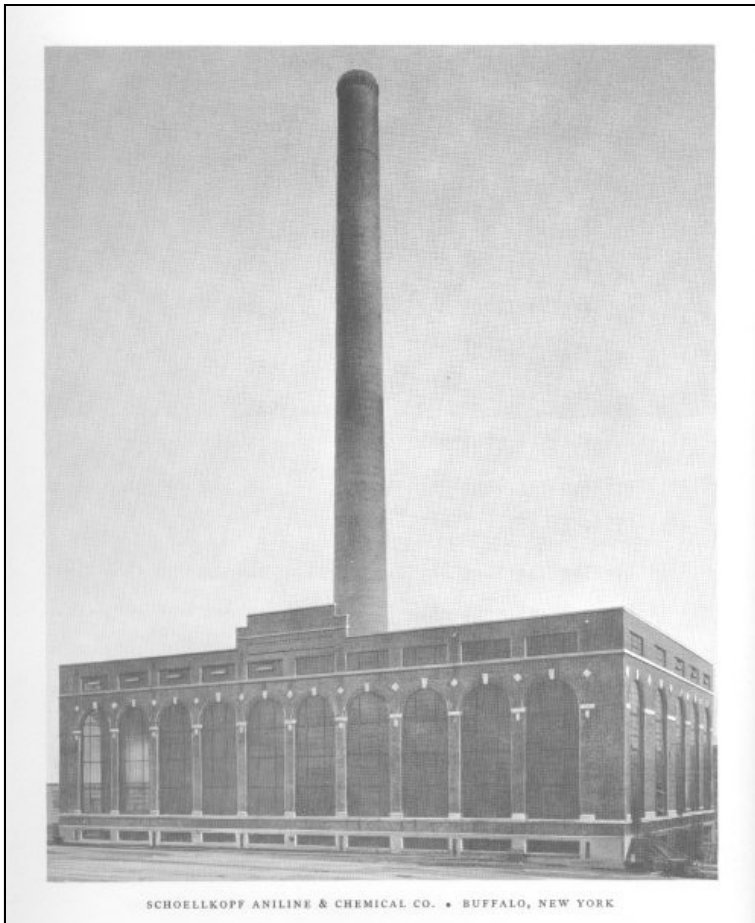


# Schoellkopf Power House Complex

In 1879, Jacob Schoellkopf established the Schoellkopf Aniline Dye & Chemical Company along the banks of the Buffalo River in South Buffalo. The company pioneered the development of aniline color dyes primarily for the cotton, silk, leather and paper dye markets within the United States.

The Buffalo dye works continued to grow and in 1917 it merged with two other chemical companies to form the National Aniline & Chemical Company, becoming the second largest dye producer in the country. The onset of World War I and the British blockade of German shipping prevented the importation of dye products and dye prices soared. Schoellkopf quickly seized on this opportunity to greatly expand manufacturing capacity at the Buffalo plant. At its peak, the Buffalo plant employed 3,000 workers in dozens of buildings on 63 acres of land along the Buffalo River. The facility was sold to Buffalo Color Corp in 1977 and continued in operation until closing in 2003.



The Schoellkopf Power House was erected in 1917 to provide for the steam generation and electric power needs of the newly expanded facility. Two massive boilers generated steam that was piped throughout the complex for use in heating and production processes. The power house also generated all the 25-cycle electric power used throughout the plant.

Two large steam-driven ammonia pumps were also located in the power house, providing chilled refrigerant for the ice making process, as great quantities of ice were used in the manufacturing process.

When originally built, the 4-story building had 30 large 35-foot tall Palladian windows. These windows were removed in 1933 to cut maintenance costs. The large 300-foot tall smokestack was removed in 1972 when new boilers were installed.

The building is currently being cleared of all equipment and debris. Our plan is to renovate the 25,000 square foot structure for use as an exhibition and special events hall. Twenty-five of the Palladian windows will be restored as part of the restoration and we will seek historic landmark status for the structure to aid in its rehabilitation.

The 2-story buildings that surround the power house were formerly used for ice-making, ice storage, product research and machine repair. These buildings, also built in 1917, comprise nearly 75,000 square feet of space that will be transformed into museum spaces celebrating Western New York's rich transportation and industrial heritage.

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