Karco Auto

6619 W. Cermak
Berwyn

Investigate crack in the masonry. It can be caused by inadequate or improper flashing/drainage and water infiltration. Relay bricks or repoint using a lime-based mortar that matches the composition, color, joint profile and texture of the original. Do not paint any of the masonry.

Remove existing sign. It is faded and too large. This location may be reused for a flush-mounted horizontal sign, but the new sign would have to be properly scaled.

Replace broken piece of obscured transom glass with matching. The openness and transparency of the storefront must be maintained.

Remove all obsolete signs and graphics.

Retain copper window frames. Do not paint them or caulk the weep holes.

Remove obsolete vertical aluminum bar connected to the window frames.

Retain glass block windows in bulkheads. Rusted steel above each window should be scraped, primed and painted. Additional protection and visual enhancement can be provided in the form of external grilles. These should not be overly ornamental and more in keeping with the age of the storefront (1920s). Glass blocks can also be back lit with evenly distributed diffused light.

The existing sign armature may be kept if it is to be used to hang a sign. Prior to reuse, its connections should be inspected and the armature painted. Otherwise, it should be removed. All holes should be patched with mortar that matches the composition and visual characteristics of the original.

Install/reopen a glass transom above the main entry door.

The main entrance door is not historic but it can be saved and reused. If it were to be replaced, the new door should be wood with a large bottom rail and less glazing.

Retain historic door and transom. Maybe repainted in any desired color.

Replace missing/broken display window glass in the recessed entry. The new glass can be laminated to prevent shattering.

Retain marble bulkheads. Evaluate substrate/bases of the bulkheads. Some marble pieces may need to be repositioned and reattached.

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, through the Illinois Main Street Program, has provided this free design assistance to qualified property/business owners in the officially designated Main Street district. This conceptual rendering is based on information supplied to the staff. Should obscured architectural details or problems be revealed during the work, the local project manager and/or the staff architects should be consulted.

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