

PRZ Technologies, Inc.

Building History & Architecture



Brost Brothers Chevrolet - 1934

The PRZ Technologies facility (pictured above as it looked in 1934 as Brost Chevrolet) is located on Broadway (NY Rt. 20) in the Village of Lancaster, NY. The main building that houses our offices, and about one-third of our machine shop, was built in 1927. The building was commissioned by the Brost family to serve as a Chevrolet-Buick dealership, and it was designed by E.B. Green & Sons architectural firm.

E.B. Green (1855-1950) was a major American architect, originally from Utica, NY, who drew from the Classical style in his own work, and was often the first choice in Buffalo, NY for major private and civic architectural projects. The Brost building that we now occupy certainly reflects this classical influence from its symmetry, balance and proportion, to the brick and concrete interpretation of classical columns that give the facade an air of grandeur.

The showroom continues this classical design, featuring an entablature executed in plaster; paired columns with fluted capitals accent corners and flank the entrance and the wide arch that opens to the main hallway.

The vast expanse of flat wall in the 60' x 30' showroom is made more interesting in four ways:

1. A band of leaded glass windows between the entablature and a lower frieze makes the showroom light and bright.
2. Decorative moldings create panels to break the flat areas into smaller sections.
3. Interior leaded glass windows flanked with corkboard framed with wide wood molding serve business functions - line of sight and communication.

4. A string course breaks the strong verticals of the columns.

The building itself had a 10,000 square foot footprint with a full basement and about 1800 square feet of office space on the second floor.

Walt Przybyl purchased the building, which had fallen into serious disrepair, mostly due to severe water damage from the previous owners neglecting the flat roof and internal drains, in July 1999. The building smelled like a rancid swimming pool, large portions of ceiling were on the floor in almost every area, plaster and sheetrock was destroyed. In addition, 70 years of 'tenant upgrades' to the electrical left us with a multitude of panel boxes feeding subsections of the building, nothing marked, and no clear circuitry. There were dividing walls up in various areas that cut up the open space.

In three months, the time limit imposed by the lending bank, the building was gutted, all mechanicals replaced, or in certain cases repaired, and the building was brought back to something closer to the spit and polish of its original self.

Over the next few years, more renovations were completed as time and finances allowed.

There are still projects remaining to be complete, but the building has served the company well, and in 2004, the Village of Lancaster Historic Commission recognized Przybyl's restoration work with a Preservation Award.

By 2007, PRZ had outgrown the space, but we did not want to move to a larger facility, so we expanded by constructing an addition on the rear of the building. By 2012, we had outgrown our space again, so Przybyl purchased two adjoining properties in order to secure more land for a second expansion.