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Making more progress

Another round of projects set for depot

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The restoration of the historic Keokuk Union Depot keeps on rolling with the next couple of projects getting ready to begin.

The Keokuk City Council approved a proposal from Quarra Stone Company for the stones needed for restoration projects. There is granite and sandstone coming from the company at a cost of \$12,320.

The projects are being paid for through grants and donations. No tax money or city funds are being used in the restoration projects.

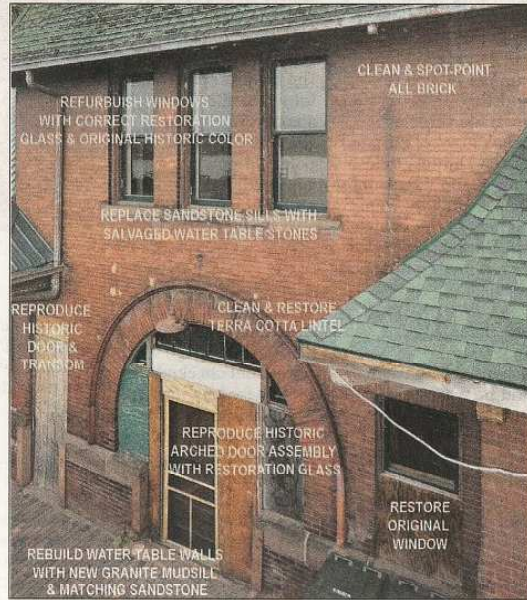
Bob Woodburn, on the Union Depot Foundation, said the upcoming project on the central tower is set to take the sandstone base and replace that with granite.

"Sandstone absorbs moisture and that wicks up through the bricks," he said.

Even though the sandstone has lasted for about 130 years in the historic depot, he said it wasn't the best stone to use, so it's being replaced with the granite and there will be tuckpointing and cleaning of bricks to make them "look new again."

Paying for this project is a grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Last year, the depot project was awarded \$112,798.

Along with replacing the base sandstone with granite, replacing sandstone window sills with new sandstone and brick repair, the project is striving to replace many of



COURTESY PHOTO

This photo of the Keokuk Union Depot is labeled as to what the next round of restoration projects will bring. Purchase of granite and sandstone was recently approved, after those materials arrive, the work can begin.

the windows with windows that appear period-correct.

Many of those windows have been plywood-covered for years, so this will bring a much better look for the building.

One item on the central tower, that will likely bring a lot to the overall restoration project, will be the reproduction of the arch door assembly with restoration glass installed on the side of the building. At the moment, it looks like a cobbled together entry, with a screen door and various pieces of plywood filling out the framing.

Another project is focusing on the waiting room of the building, which also has some sandstone and windows to replace.

Woodburn said they are trying to get the projects done together, as that would mean less cost, with less

travel back to the site for the companies.

As for a timeframe, he said there is some lag time until the stone is delivered. There's a lot of different sizes for the sandstone to be cut, so it may take awhile to get everything done and delivered.

However, he hopes the central tower of the building will see completion this year, perhaps into next year.

This past year, there was a project to restore the canopy next to the tracks. Woodburn said that project is almost complete, with it needing another coat of paint.

He said everyone is ready to see the projects get completed, so it becomes a nice place for residents to use. The depot already

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DEPOT: Grants help projects

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gets rented out and has hosted a variety of events as the restoration projects continue, but will be that much more inviting when

the restoration is complete.

The depot was completed in 1891 and was designed by the renowned Chicago Architectural firm Burham & Root. The building has seen

various attempts to house businesses and have restoration work over the years, but the current group has accomplished the most in seeing the building returned to its original state.