

Effort begins to save stonework at Superior's Central High School

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Efforts to save Superior's former Central High School failed when the School Board decided to seek demolition bids last fall.

As spring nears, however, a new hope is blossoming that a portion of the building's illustrious past can be saved.

Superior resident Belita Scott is working with members of Friends of the Superior Public Library to preserve the stonework that once made Central

High School glorious enough to serve as a summer White House.

The Friends of the Library have agreed to collect donations from the community for the project, member Joan Pooler said. People contributing to the effort to save stonework should note that on their checks, she said.

With salvage work under way to save the sandstone on Central, Scott said she thought about buying some of the stone for a couple of benches at the Superior Public Library.

But the idea grew. Now Scott is working with the Friends of the Superior Public Library to create a sculpture garden at the library in addition to benches.

And among the stones she's hoping to salvage are the corner pieces under the parapet above the Belknap Street entrance of the school, the stones engraved with open books encircled by wreaths.

"I think it is one way they can keep a part of Central and keep it from scattering to the four winds," said Nancy Carrier, president of the library

board. "I think it's interesting that the open book sculptures are coming to the library."

But removing the stones for the benches and garden is expected to cost about \$9,000, considerably more than the \$2,000 Scott had expected to spend when she originally considered buying stone for benches.

She's hoping to garner community support for the project to keep a part of Superior's past in the community.

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Get involved

To help save Central's stonework, make checks payable to Friends of the Library and mail them to Friends of the Library, c/o Superior Public Library, 1530 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54880.

Note on the check that the donation is for Central's stonework.