

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

CELORON

## Fans buy, plan to restore Ball's childhood home

By MARK SOMMER  
News Staff Reporter  
3/11/2005



William Rapaport stands in front of Lucille Ball's childhood home in Celoron, which he and his wife, Amy, have purchased.

The East Amherst couple paid \$100,000 for the four-bedroom house containing about 1,600 square feet and located just minutes from Jamestown. Both are lifetime members of the Lucy-Desi Museum, and Mary Rapaport is on the board of the Lucille Ball-Desi Amaz Center, which manages the museum.

The Rapaports say they will vacation there and make it available to the center.

Ric Wyman, the museum's executive director, said he was thrilled about the home's new owners.

"When any home goes up for sale, there's no guarantee that the next owner will be someone who will care for it the way you hope it will be cared for," Wyman said.

e-mail: [msommer@buffnews.com](mailto:msommer@buffnews.com)

The two-story Celoron home where Lucille Ball lived as a child has been sold to fans of the celebrated comedian.

William and Mary Rapaport took ownership of the home Tuesday and plan to restore it to its appearance in the 1920s, when Ball lived there with her family.

"We bought this house because we saw what it looked like, and we would like to put it back to the way it belongs," Mary Rapaport said. "I think the house will be really cool when it gets back to the way it used to be."

"Lucy's childhood home is so important to this community and to the story of this wonderful woman. It had to be saved," William Rapaport added.

This material is copyrighted and is for your exclusive personal use only. Reproduction or other use of this material without the express written consent of The Buffalo News is prohibited. The Buffalo News can be contacted at 716-849-4444 or by e-mail at [republish@buffnews.com](mailto:republish@buffnews.com).

