

Rozier House garners state preservation award

By Sarah AuBuchon
Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Rehabbing a historical home in De Soto has brought state recognition to those behind the work.

Stacey Morgan of S&S Construction, and Bob Wood of Robert Wood Realty, recently received the Missouri Preservation Preserve Missouri Award for their work restoring the Louis J. Rozier house at 322 W. Clement. They received the award Thursday.



ANDREW JANSEN PHOTO: Stacey Morgan of S & S Construction, and Bob Wood of Robert Wood Realty, recently received the Missouri Preservation Preserve Missouri Award for their work restoring the Louis J. Rozier house at 322 W. Clement.

The Rozier House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Queen Anne style home, which Rozier built in 1887 for \$4,500. The two-story Victorian is architecturally unique with steep roofs, an asymmetrical design and a gazebo-type porch.

According to the description from the National Register of Historic Places the interior of the house is arranged much the same as it was when it was originally built.

"It's one of the few examples of a home in that area that's been renovated," Barbara Fitzgerald, executive director of Missouri Preservation, said. "It's a home that had not changed much."

The interior of the home still has much of the original beaded pilaster casings, baseboards, corner blocks and base blocks, two sets of pocket doors and fireplaces. On the exterior of the home are three porches, a one-story, full-width, L-shaped front porch with an extension at the west end, a smaller rear porch on the north side and a covered landing with handrails on the east side.

The house had fallen into decay, but a couple of years ago, Wood and Morgan, who are known for rehabbing older homes, bought the property and embarked on a project to restore it with the help of the Missouri State Historic Tax Credit Rehab program. The house is only one of four on the National Register of Historic Places in Jefferson County.

Rozier was superintendent and secretary for the family owned Valle Mining Co., nine miles to the south in the settlement of Valles Mines. Though relatively distant from the mines, Rozier chose to build in De Soto to be close to the booming trade spurred by the construction of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad and its associated car works and machine shops.