

# OSWEGO SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**OWNER:**

Oswego School District Public Library (Agent for the County of Oswego IDA)  
120 East Second Street  
Oswego, NY 13126  
Contact: Murray Gould (Owner Rep), 315.341.5867

**ARCHITECT:**

SWBR  
387 East Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14604  
Contact: Dave Beinetti, 585.232.8300

**LeCHASE'S ROLE:**

CM-at-Risk

**VALUE:**

\$8.5 million

**SCHEDULE:**

April 2006 to May 2008

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Founded by prominent abolitionist Gerritt Smith and originally constructed in 1855, the Oswego Public Library was the first library in the nation to be open to all residents regardless of race. The library is still one of the only known abolitionist-founded institutions to remain open to this day, and therefore is considered a historic landmark, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The project consisted of removing the entire interior of this building with the exception of the front stairs. The majority of the interior was preserved and restored to the original condition. The exterior brick and stone base had significant structural and cosmetic repairs that were needed. The original windows were also restored. However, some of the windows were historically re-created due to extensive damage. The original entrance foyer with its curved, wood-railed staircases remained structurally sound but underwent a complete architectural restoration. Brick interior walls were retained and incorporated into the new layout of staff and support spaces. The main reading room was restored reusing period metal ceiling elements and replicating column enclosures.

The renovations included restoring the interior of the library and adding space for library programs, a children's room and staff offices. In addition, the library was equipped with state-of-the-art technology, an updated book catalogue and high speed internet access.

In 2009, LeChase Construction won a NY Build Award for our work on this project.

