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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### ***Rehabilitation of the Oswego Public Library to be honored***

ALBANY, NY – April 16, 2010 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the rehabilitation of the **Oswego Public Library** to receive an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League's statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

"Just nine years ago, this building was placed on the League's *Seven to Save* list of endangered properties, and threatened with abandonment," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "Now, after significant rehabilitation and expansion, the continued use of an existing building as a library has had a positive effect on Oswego. Retrofitting a 19th century library to accommodate 21st century needs is a challenge and this outcome provides an important statewide model."

Contributing to the success of this project were Friends of the Oswego Public Library; Port City Preservation, Step One Creative and PRO Library, all of Oswego; LeChase Construction and SWBR of Rochester; Tappe Associates of Boston; North Country Library System of Watertown; the Heritage Foundation of Oswego and the staff and trustees of the Oswego Public Library.

The Oswego Public Library opened in 1857 with a directive that the library be open to all "regardless of race, social standing, or sex." According to Mercedes Niess, an Oswego Public Library Trustee, "While this building once suffered from serious structural issues and was unable to support the load of patrons and books, we now have a structurally sound historic building and a sympathetic addition to meet the needs of today's community. Further, the re-use of an existing historic building, rather than the construction of a new one, has had a positive effect on the neighborhood and dramatically improved the main entry into the City of Oswego."

*(more)*

The award will be presented at the Preservation League's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: William S. Hackett Middle School, Albany; The Belmont Hotel, Allegany County; Walkway over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie; The Guaranty Building, Buffalo; The American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street Façades, New York; Empire State Building Lobby Restoration, New York; Oswego Public Library, Oswego; West Hall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy. ***Looking for Work: Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York*** by Peter H. Stott (Syracuse University Press, 2007) will be honored as an outstanding publication. Senator David Valesky and Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Legislative sponsors of the New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, will be honored for individual excellence.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the rehabilitation of the Oswego Public Library the statewide recognition it deserves.”

*The Preservation League's Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.*

*By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.*

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