



The City of Buffalo proposes to construct a new, state-of-the-art library to serve the residents of the East Side of Buffalo and the broader community of Erie County. The building's design, ambience and furnishings will reflect the African-American culture. At 20,000 square feet, it will house services, programs and resources to serve the African-American population and beyond to all of Erie County. The library will be a gathering point for the community with varied meeting spaces and many unique library features.

The design of the building will emphasize convenience, attractiveness, safety and ease of use. The exterior should reflect the African-American theme and include pleasing landscaping. The library will allow access to the resources of the entire Library System through its computer network and will contain a computer-training lab to expand technology use by its patrons. It will replace the current North Jefferson Branch Library at 332 East Utica Street near Jefferson Avenue.

Owner:

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

Location:

City of Buffalo, Erie County

Completion Date:

June, 2005

Construction Cost

\$4,500,000 (Estimate)

Services:

- *Electrical Engineering*
- *HVAC Engineering*
- *Plumbing Engineering*
- *Fire-Protection Engineering*

Watts Engineers was engaged to complete the Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing and Fire-Protection engineering for this facility. The HVAC system consists of four variable air volume air handling systems, an 80 ton capacity chilled water system, redundant copper fin boilers, and is configured so as to eliminate the need for unsightly roof mounted mechanical equipment. The Electrical systems include a Local Area Network to link administrative terminals, and will provide the Library's on-line catalog and internet access to PC's throughout the building for public use. Additionally, contextually sensitive, energy efficient lighting has been designed, and will include the capability of providing for the lighting requirements of special displays in the African American Resource Room. The building will be fully sprinklered, and will also be equipped with a complete fire alarm and detection system.

The project began construction in 2004, with completion slated for the summer of 2005.