

U.S.

Obama Is Said to Have Picked Presidential Library Site in Chicago

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS JULY 27, 2016

WASHINGTON — President Obama and the foundation helping to plot his path after the White House have selected Jackson Park on the South Side of Chicago as the site of his presidential library, ending a debate within his inner circle about the location, a person familiar with the decision said Wednesday.

Mr. Obama and his presidential foundation have been deliberating for months over whether to place the library in Jackson Park, which is on a broad expanse of Lake Michigan and borders the Woodlawn neighborhood, or in the Washington Park neighborhood, which is closer to the Obamas' home in Chicago.

Even when the Barack Obama Foundation announced it had selected architects for the project this month — choosing the New York husband-and-wife team of Tod Williams and Billie Tsien — it had still not made its final choice of sites.

The foundation would not comment on the decision on Wednesday, but a person knowledgeable about it confirmed it, speaking on condition of anonymity without authorization to pre-empt the official announcement that is expected within days. It was first reported by The Chicago Tribune.

Mr. Obama and his wife, Michelle, have been deeply involved in the planning of the library and presidential center, spending hours in recent months poring over concepts from architects and discussing the project with them, as well as mapping out the goals and details of the complex. The president plans to raise as much as \$1

billion to finance it.

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