Through art and architecture, former presidents can influence the way visitors and researchers view their presidency. Where the library is located, the landscaping, the architectural style, the artwork inside the library, and the museum exhibits themselves all have the capacity of being able to influence how people view the respective president. In theory, the relationship between architecture and politics is complex. That is, the presidents, who have the ultimate say in the design of their library, are also influenced by art and architecture, whether they are aware of that influence or not. But, as sculptors of their own legacies, former presidents wield the power that architecture can potentially have, and thus we discover a pattern in the design of these libraries. This pattern links a president's ideology with his subsequent library design. In short, the architecture of the presidential libraries is essentially determined by ideology, not by the subjective aesthetic tastes of the former presidents.

Presidential libraries have a history dating back to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt was the first president to make a presidential library that would be run by a government agency. The motive for Roosevelt, in making a government administered presidential library, was the poor track record that presidential papers had in surviving after a president has passed. Presidential papers historically have been the private property of the outgoing president. This practice led to unfortunate endings for many historical documents. The widow of Warren G. Harding famously burned all of his presidential papers, and many of John Tyler's papers were lost during the burning of Richmond in 1865. Zachary Taylor lost many of his papers during the Civil War when his papers were taken by Union troops (Hyland, 4). Along with the freak accidents that have befallen many presidential papers, may have just disappeared because of the natural effects of time. Water, mice infestations, and dispersion to relatives and souvenir seekers contributed to most of the lost presidential papers before the modern practice of establishing presidential libraries (Hyland 50).

As can be seen, Roosevelt had a right to be worried about his presidential papers post presidency. Luckily, he did, however, have one former president that he could look to as an example on which he could base his new presidential library. This came from the presidential library of Rutherford B. Hayes. The Rutherford B. Hayes Memorial Museum and Library is located in Fremont, Ohio and was opened in 1916. The Hayes library is considered the first presidential library. It, however, is not run by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which oversees all presidential libraries starting with the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library. The Hayes library set the blueprint for the library/museum model that is used for every presidential library (Hyland, 14).

Roosevelt started the tradition of privately funding the building of a presidential library but having it federally administered after its completion. He also made the conscious effort not to build his library in Washington, D.C to avoid concentrating too many of the country's national records in a single location where they would be in danger of being destroyed by war (Haufbauer, 30). That

fear ultimately led to his decision to build his library in Hyde Park, New York, his boyhood home, which also started the tradition of building libraries not in nationally significant locations, but in locations that reflect on a presidents' past personal history, such as achildhood home or congressional district where the past president had served. In order for his library to be run by the federal government, Roosevelt had to introduce legislation that would make his planned library part of the National Archives. After some debate and criticism, the legislation passed in July of 1939 and the first cornerstone for his library was laid in November of that year (Haufbauer, 322).

Roosevelt had set the course for future presidential libraries to be administered federally and be part of the National Archives. Subsequent legislation has further incorporated presidential papers into the National Archives. In 1955, Harry S. Truman decided to follow his predecessor and donated his presidential papers to the federal government. Consequently, Congress passed the Presidential Libraries Act (PLA). The PLA established that any living president could build a library, which explains why Hoover built his after Roosevelt's and Truman's (Stuckey, 139). In 1978 Congress passed the Presidential Records Act (PRA), which established that all presidential papers were property of the U.S government. Previously, presidential papers were considered the private property of the respected president. The PRA, however, made Carter uneasy because many critics thought that advisors would not want to give counsel on some matters, knowing that their conversations would eventually become public. Also, there was concern over the distinction between official presidential papers and personal papers.

In all, what the PRA encouraged was government transparency and trust between the president and the public (Stuckey 140). Carter signed the PRA into law, but Reagan was actually the first president to be affected by the act. In January of 1989, Reagan issued Executive Order 12667 that established how former presidents' records will be released. For the first five years after office, a president has the authority to keep his records classified except to Congress, the courts, and former and current presidents. For the next seven years, the public may access former presidents' records through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Sensitive records that are concerned with national security are still exempt from being released through FOIA. Finally, after twelve years, everything can be accessed by the public through FOIA (Stuckey 141).

In November of 2001, former president George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13233, which changed the procedure of releasing records that Reagan had originally established. Bush's Executive Order gave presidents more power in deciding what records to make public and what records to keep classified and also increased the power for presidents to use executive privilege. In light of this, many scholars such as Mary E. Stuckey argued that presidential libraries were in jeopardy of becoming a basin for subpar research because the lack of transparency would make it much harder for scholars to accurately research a president. The last piece of legislation dealing with presidential libraries happened in January