

JFK Library Shifts

To Boston Harbor

By Stephen Isaacs

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Directors of the John F. Kennedy Library decided yesterday to build the facility memorializing the late President on a bleak point of land extending into Boston Harbor instead of alongside his alma mater, Harvard University.

The Kennedy family made the key decision. They voted as a bloc to forgo a connection with Harvard—contrary to what had long been presumed—and instead to locate on Columbia Point on land that is part of a campus of the University of Massachusetts.

The Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum has been a center of controversy for the 10 years it has been in the planning, and yesterday's decision by the corporation's board does not appear to end it.

Sentiment within the board on location of the library-museum was described by

participants as being so mixed that members of the Kennedy family withdrew from yesterday's meeting.

They caucused privately, then came back and cast their votes as a bloc to build the whole library and museum on Columbia Point.

The vote within the family was said to be close, as was the vote within the entire board. Besides Kennedy family members the board includes names recalling the New Frontier, such as Robert S. McNamara, C. Douglas Dillon, Eugene Black, David Ormsby-Gore, Nathan Pusey, Burke Marshall, Robert A. Lovett, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and Andre Mayer.

Kennedy family members on the board include his widow, Jacqueline Onassis, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Ethel Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith,

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Patricia Lawford and Mrs. Sargent Shriver.

Yesterday's decision was announced in Boston by Sen. Kennedy, but the vote was taken at a meeting earlier in the day at the New York offices of architect I. M. Pei.

There, members of the Pei firm presented two plans for the library-museum, one putting it on the Columbia Point plot, the other putting the archives at the Harvard site and the museum in a historic site being developed at the Boston Navy Yard in Charlestown.

The University of Massachusetts owns land on the Columbia Point site, where a much-publicized housing project is located. Most of that publicity has centered on its high crime rate. A shopping center built to serve the project's residents was so vandalized that most of the commercial occupants moved away and boarded up their stores.

Arguments for the Columbia Point site made at the meeting were that it would be more efficient and less costly to locate both parts of the project at one place, and that work on the project could start immediately there, while it

would be further delayed at the other sites.

For the Harvard site, Pei originally had designed a huge, modernistic pyramid to sit over car yards for the Boston subway across from Eliot House. President Kennedy had once suggested that site himself. But residents of the Cambridge area loudly protested, claiming that the Kennedy project would attract too many cars and noisy visitors to the already-crowded Harvard Square area of Cambridge.

The protestors won their point and Pei at first tried to scale down the size of his plans for the library-museum, then came up with yesterday's options.

Backers of the Harvard site yesterday insisted in vain that ties be maintained with the school.

Sen. Kennedy, in announcing the decision, said that "the chosen site is near the sea, which President Kennedy loved, and in a neighborhood where there has been enthusiastic response. It's also the same neighborhood where my mother spent her childhood and attended school."