

The Obama Presidential “Library”



by Miles Mathis

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Can someone—anyone—explain how that cost almost a billion dollars? They certainly didn't waste any money on glass, since it has no windows. It looks more like the Obama Memorial Gulag. Didn't waste any money on stone, either, since that looks to be simple concrete. That isn't what a billion dollars of concrete looks like, folks. A billion dollars of concrete should cover the south half of Chicago to a depth of three feet, or pave over most of Lake Michigan for new parking.

I'm also not clear on the whole concept of a Presidential Library in this day and age, when most people don't read and certainly don't read books. Does Obama actually have any books to put in that cellblock, other than his old comic book collection from the 1970s and some Oprah paperbacks she sent to him for promotional purposes? Things like *Who Moved my Cheese?* and the *Celestine Prophecies*. Not only could you put all the books Obama ever read on one flashdrive, you could physically put all the hardback books together on the top of one coffee table. You couldn't even fill one bookshelf.

I daresay you could take all the physical books read by every President, Vice President, and member of Congress since 1900, they still wouldn't fill a single short row in a library. These people don't even read the bills they are voting on; do you really think they are reading books in their spare time?

I will be told they are going to store his Presidential papers there. You have to be kidding me. What Presidential papers? Obama never saw a real piece of paper when he was President: he read everything from Teleprompters. Maybe they are going to store some old Teleprompters there.

I honestly can't imagine what could be going on in the interior of that space, other than a continuation of the old propaganda. I have to think this is just the CIA's newest agitprop museum, the Obama edition, sort of like the now defunct Newseum.



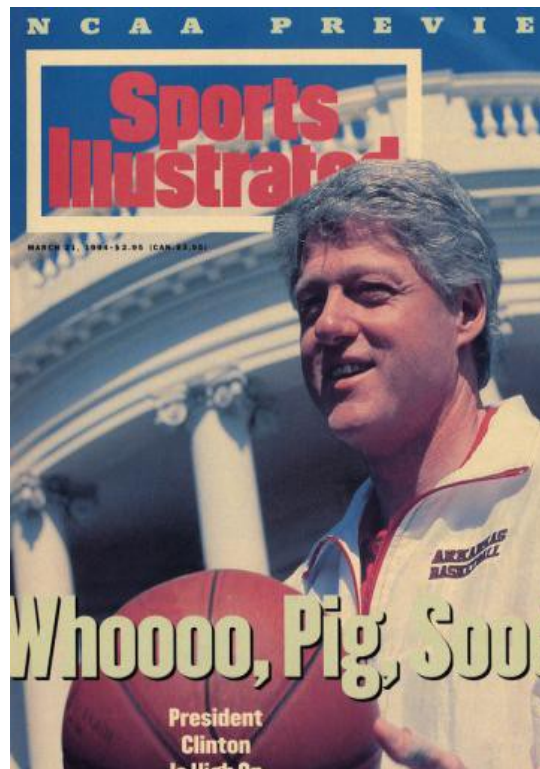
It is another opportunity to burn a billion dollars of your taxes while pushing the old lies out into the future as far as possible, until this sinks into the swamp or incinerates itself in a gas explosion.

To figure it out, let's see what happened to the Clinton Presidential Library.

The museum collection at the Clinton Presidential Library includes over 100,000 objects and works of art. The Clinton family received gifts from everyone imaginable including citizens of the United States and foreign heads of state. The collection also includes objects collected by the museum since President Clinton left office, including those related to his life and presidency and items from his campaigns for President.

That's the first sentence over there. Nothing about books or papers, so library is a misnomer, as I said. It is a collection of gifts Clinton received over the years . . . gifts he didn't want to keep for himself and apparently couldn't sell, since they were too tacky or worthless. Nobody on Ebay wanted them, so put them in the "Museum". It's the old fine line between antiques and junk. I looked for a page of examples of these great gifts you could see at the Clinton Presidential Library, but curiously there is no such page. The only object I could find was the Presidential limo he used. That is the highlight of the entire first floor. You can go [here](#) for an overview of other exhibit highlights, though I warn you you won't find any highlights, or lowlights, either. Only some photo collections like "Putting People First". Yeah, order your tickets now, to beat the rush.

No, wait, I did finally find [a list](#), and it included highlights like this:



Aren't you glad they spent your taxdollars building a gigantic ugly building that could house that? You don't want the *Sports Illustrated* archives to be the only place that has one of those on file, right?

Has anyone ever visited this “library”? I would love to see the visitor books. Have they even filled the first card yet? Anyone who would actually get in a car and drive to see Clinton's Presidential Library, or any other Presidential Library, should be darted, tagged, and dropped off on some deserted island, before he do further harm to himself or others.

Prior to Obama, Clinton's was the most expensive Presidential Library, at \$165 million in 2004. That's \$293 million now, due to inflation of about 77% in just 22 years, but that's still about 1/3rd what Obama's cost. So Obama just tripled the previous record, for a concrete gulag. We are told private donations covered Clinton's gulag, but if you believe it you need to look for kinks in your ventilator. Some of it was covered by indulgences sold by Clinton as he left: see the half million “donated” by Marc Rich in exchange for his pardon from major racketeering charges. So, bribery to cover up racketeering. But knowing these people, I would say there is no way a large part of it wasn't snorkeled from the treasury by some serpentine channels. The usual. That's why the treasury is there, you know.

Wikipedia tells us someone (who?) projected 700,000 visitors a year for the Obama Presidential Library. You have to laugh. That's almost 3,000 a day everyday it is open. I have a different prediction: they won't get that many people through the door by 2046. The place couldn't get 70,000 a year if they had free entry, but at \$30 per person they won't get \$7,000 a year. A few local blacks might stumble in there occasionally to beat the heat, but not at \$30 a pop. They similarly predicted big numbers for the Newseum in New York City, spending huge money to promote it, but it bombed just like this fake library will bomb, and for the same reason: no one is going to pay \$30 to see in person some old photos they can see online for free without leaving the house. They admit the Newseum ticket sales didn't even cover 10% of its operating costs. It is now part of Johns Hopkins business school.

I attended the University of Texas, where they have the LBJ Presidential Library, which they now admit was at least partially covered by the University, which is funded by taxes. Like the Obama gulag, the LBJ building has no windows, though at least it is made of white marble or something.



I can tell you from firsthand experience no one ever goes there, or did back in the 1980s when I was there. It has always been a well-airconditioned mausoleum, empty as a morgue. I was in the LBJ School for one semester (about a month, actually), and that “library” is right next door, so I looked inside a couple of times just for the heck of it. You could store meat in there. No one but a couple of old ladies, half asleep. Its operating expenses must come out of state taxes, since there is no way private donations are still covering that 50 years later. Those people are all long dead. So it is a white elephant and money pit, like most everything else in this world. There only because no one has the gumption or intelligence to demolish it.

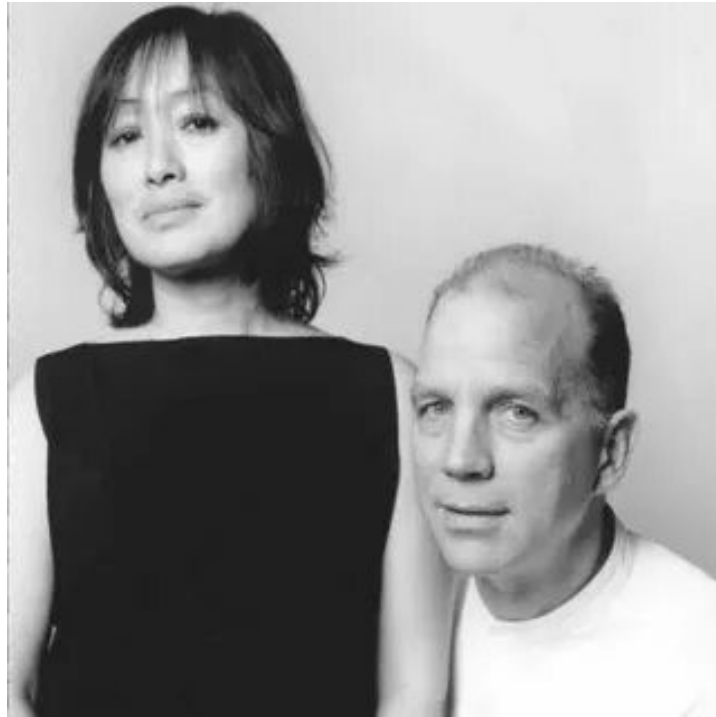
So the older Presidential Libraries must be even worse, right? What about the Truman Library? Truman was famous for being a rube. I doubt he ever read a book in his life. He probably couldn't even spell library. Liberry. Nonetheless his is the first Presidential Library, and you can still visit it in Independence, Missouri, if you are addled enough to wish to. Book now to beat the rush. Although not much of value is left: it has been looted several times, with everything of value (like a coin collection and some Arabic swords) taken by thieves. Which you have to admit is apropos for a government building. As you sow, so shall you reap.

Wikipedia has a section on “visitors” for the Truman liberry:

Visitors after 1972 include incumbent presidents Ford, Carter, and Clinton and presidential nominees [John Kerry](#) and [John McCain](#).

Wow, five people in 54 years. They must be proud. That's the kind of numbers Obama can expect, if he stays on his current popularity arc.

So who are the magnificent architects who designed the Obama Memorial Gulag and Gift Shop?



Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, possibly the worst architects of all time. You can read the dynamic just from that photo, can't you, which is probably why Wikipedia jettisoned all photos from their page. It's an Ono-Lennon vibe, isn't it? Is he wearing a leash? But Obama knew what he was getting, since all their previous projects are the same basic thing: depressing windowless monoliths oozing Modern ugly at full volume. See the American Folk Art Museum in New York, which should be housing bondage paraphernalia instead of folk art. Or the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago, which of course contains only Modern art, ie no art.

Some blind person even hired them to build two residence halls at Haverford College, where I went for a semester back in the 80s.



Gorgeous, right? What a flair for architecture! And they fit in so well with the old architecture of Haverford:



But who wants that when you can live in a cellblock? Who wants a Presidential Library when you can have a concrete Russian gulag?

Which is not to say I think Trump's will be any better. I guess it will have a wing devoted to UFC and WWE, another devoted to Big Macs and diet Coke, and another devoted to *The Apprentice*. No doubt it will have special exhibitions for Warp-speed vaccines, the pretend war with Iran, the pretend one-day war with Venezuela, and the pretend assassination that took off part of his ear which subsequently grew back.