



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Women's Prison Association of New York records

1845-1983

MssCol 3378

Summary

Creator: Women's Prison Association of New York

Title: Women's Prison Association of New York records

Date: 1845-1983

Size: 116 linear feet (148 boxes)

Source: Gift, Women's Prison Association, 1985

Abstract: The Women's Prison Association, founded in 1854, promotes improvement in the treatment of women prisoners in New York and offers rehabilitation assistance to ex-offenders. The Association also has proposed various reforms in the criminal justice system for women and has operated the Isaac T. Hopper Home since the mid-19th century, making it the oldest women's "halfway house" in the U.S. Collection consists of correspondence, minutes, reports, legislative bills, project files, client case files, financial records, photographs, and printed matter documenting the activities of the Women's Prison Association (WPA). Within the administrative records there are Executive Committee and Board of Directors minutes, 1888-1979 (with gaps); directors and staff correspondence and reports, 1845-1983 (with gaps); fundraising records, 1933-1973; scattered records of the Treasurer, 1869-1977; and auditors' reports, 1929-1977. Also, administrative files for all the major projects of the 1970s and a fairly complete set of annual reports, 1859-1981. Client case records (comprising about three-quarters of the collection) contain case books, rolls, registration cards, and samples of daily reports on residents of the Hopper Home. Case files for individual clients form the largest element of the client records and contain information about closed cases from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Records containing information about WPA clients in which they are personally identified are closed for 70 years.

Administrative records of the WPA which do not contain client data are closed for 15 years.

Preferred citation: Women's Prison Association of New York records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The Women's Prison Association, founded in 1854, promotes improvement in the treatment of women prisoners in New York and offers rehabilitation assistance to ex-offenders. The Association also has proposed various reforms in the criminal justice system for women and has operated the Isaac T. Hopper Home since the mid-19th century, making it the oldest women's "halfway house" in the U.S.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists of correspondence, minutes, reports, legislative bills, project files, client case files, financial records, photographs, and printed matter documenting the activities of the Women's Prison Association (WPA). Within the administrative records there are Executive Committee and Board of Directors minutes, 1888-1979 (with gaps); directors and staff correspondence and reports, 1845-1983 (with gaps); fundraising records, 1933-1973; scattered records of the Treasurer, 1869-1977; and auditors' reports, 1929-1977. Also, administrative files for all the major projects of the 1970s and a fairly complete set of annual reports, 1859-1981. Client case records (comprising about three-quarters of the collection) contain case books, rolls, registration cards, and samples of daily reports on residents of the Hopper Home. Case files for individual clients form the largest element of the client records and contain information about closed cases from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Arrangement: Three series: Executive Committee/Board of Directors Minutes; Directors and Staff Correspondence and Reports; Client Case Records

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Case files
Photoprints

Subjects

Criminals -- Rehabilitation
Halfway houses -- New York (State) -- New York
Reformatories for women -- New York (State)
Rehabilitation centers
Social work with criminals
Women prisoners

Names

Women's Prison Association of New York
Atkinson, Miriam
Clark, Mary V
Daniel, A.S
Emerson, Sara M
Gibbons, Abigail M
Hunt, E. Mebane
Powell, Rachel H

Steinmetz, Margaret B
Woodbridge, Alice
Isaac T. Hopper Home