



Collection 1946

**Pennsylvania Prison Society
Records**

1787-1966, n.d.

1 box, 29 vols., 5 lin. feet

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Related Collections at Charles Morton Diary. Collection 1995.

HSP: Thompson Family Papers. Collection 654.

Vaux Family Papers. Collection 684.

William White Papers. Collection 711.

Annual Reports of the Inspectors of the
Eastern State Penitentiary

Pennsylvania Prison Society
Records, 1787-1966, n.d.
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Abstract

On May 8, 1787, a small group of men, armed with Christian benevolence and the desire to improve the conditions of the Walnut Street Prison, established the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons. Comprised of men from different fields and different sects of Christianity, the society's goal was to end the illegal suffering of inmates, whose punishment was often public labor in the streets of Philadelphia. In its earlier days, the society gave relief to prisoners in the form of money and clothing. The members also visited prisoners and gave them bible hoping to spur repentance. By the 1820s, the society realized that the deplorable conditions of the Walnut Street jail could not continue and the members had begun to believe in the theory of contamination; they thought that if criminals associated with one another in the prison walls, they could never truly be reformed. The society spent much of the nineteenth century advocating the Pennsylvania System of solitary confinement and the new Eastern State Penitentiary. The members also visited county prisons across the state and sought just penal legislation. The society continued to grow in numbers and, as the society entered the twentieth century, it became involved in numerous studies hoping to gain a better understanding of the causes of criminality and the most effective and just paths to punishment and reformation.

The Pennsylvania Prison Society Records span from 1787 to 1966 and are comprised of twenty-nine minute books and one box of correspondence and other papers. The collection offers a full picture of the society, its activities, and its goals through the detailed meeting minutes. The topics in this collection include prison conditions at the Walnut Street jail, Eastern State Penitentiary and other county prisons; the plight of prisoners; relief given by the society; the roots and implementation of the Pennsylvania System of Solitary Confinement; the society's involvement in national conferences for penal reform; acts brought to the state legislature for penal reform; and other miscellaneous topics.

Background note

In 1786, physician Benjamin Rush penned a pamphlet condemning the use of public labor for prisoners in Philadelphia entitled *An Enquiry into the Effects of Publish Punishment Upon Prisoners*. Several months later, several men from the city formed a group concerned with the conditions of the prison in Philadelphia and the use of public labor as a punishment; they called themselves The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons. The Society believed that the illegal suffering of the

prisoners was the responsibility of all society, because there is a “tie that binds the whole family of mankind together.” It was necessary to “restore our creatures to virtue and happiness” through the various activities in which the members engaged.

The first meeting of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons was on May 8, 1787 and the following men were present: Benjamin Rush, John Swanwick, John Morrison, Thomas Morrison, Tench Coxe, Zachariah Poulson, Thomas Lloyd, Joseph Moore, William Roger, John Haighn, James Whitehall, Richard Wells, Thomas Wistar, Jacob Shoemaker, Isaac Parrish, William Lane, Thomas Rogers, Samuel Griffiths, Francis Baily, Joseph James, Charles Marshall, John Olden, Caleb Lownes, Thomas Parkinson, John Morris, John Baker, Dr. George Duffield, James Reynolds, Benjamin Wynkoop, George Krebs, Dr. William White, Dr. Henry Helmuth, Dr. John Jones, Dr. William Shippen, Dr. Gerardus Clarkson, Jonathan Penrose, and Lawrence Sickle. These men, who had various religious and professional backgrounds, were leaders in the community – doctors, clergy, merchants, a printer, and, in the case of Tench Coxe, a little bit of everything.

According to the original constitution, the society would have one president, two vice presidents, a treasurer, two secretaries, four appointed physicians, an electing committee of twelve, and an acting committee of six.. William White was named the first president and the following were the first officers: Richard Wells and Dr. Henry Helmuth (vice presidents); Roger (treasurer); Swanwick and Morris (secretaries); and Rush, Clarkson, Shippen, and Jones (physicians). The acting committee, which was the backbone of the society, was charged with visiting the Walnut Street Prison and inquiring as to the circumstances of confinement; report abuses to the officers; and examine the influence of the confinement upon the morals of the prisoners. If they needed medical advice or expertise, the acting committee consulted the four appointed physicians. The nominating committee approved the Society’s new members. All members of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons paid ten shillings per year in dues and this money went toward expenses. The expenses ranged from the purchasing of bibles and clothing to the paying of the debt of prisoners, who were awaiting their release.

By the turn of the century, the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of the Public Prisons realized that conditions at the Walnut Street Prison were deplorable and could not continue. The poverty, nakedness, immorality, illness, and idleness that ran rampant in the prison made the members question the city’s current penal system and they stated several goals for legislation. First, they wanted to end the practice of locking prisoners in irons; second, they wanted to reform the payment system for jailers to avoid corruption, by establishing a set salary; and connected to the previous goal, they wanted to form a team of prison inspectors, who were appointed by the courts or were elected.

Throughout the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the society continued to offer relief to the prisoners and pursue just legislation. Soon, the members became influenced by the writings of John Howard, British penal theorist. Howard was influenced by his time spent as a prisoner in a French jail and he would become a leading voice in nineteenth century penal reform. His philosophy was as follows:

I the more earnestly embarked in the scheme of erecting penitentiary-houses from seeing cart loads of our fellow creatures carried to execution; many of whom I was fully persuaded might, by regular steady discipline in a penitentiary-house, have been rendered useful members of society...that such a plan might be the means of promoting the salvation of some individuals...a more important object than the gaining of the world.

He advocated the separate confinement of prisoners so that they might have time for reflection that would eventually lead them to recognition of the wrongs of the crimes that they committed and to the path of repentance. These theories resonated with the members of the society and the first step that they took toward instituting the separate system (later Pennsylvania System) at the Walnut Street Jail was the classification of prisoners so as to separate the “petty thief” from “highway robber.”

In May 1820, a riot erupted in the prison, one prisoner was killed, and a crowd attempted to escape over the wall; a group of citizens was called upon and they fired at the crowd thwarting the escape. This spurred the society to action and the members began to advocate the building of a new penitentiary that would be designed with the Pennsylvania System in mind. On March 20, 1821, the Society succeeded in compelling the legislature to set aside \$100,000 for the building of a penitentiary in Philadelphia under “the principle of solitary confinement of the prisoners to be preserved and maintained.” Hopes were high for the penitentiary and the members of the Society saw this as a great victory for both themselves and the cause of reformation. Four of the eleven men appointed to the commission for the building of the Eastern State Penitentiary were members of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons – Roberts Vaux, Thomas Bradford, John Bacon, and Samuel R. Wood.

The committee hired British architect John Haviland, whose design for the penitentiary would ensure that prisoners had little contact with each others. Each inmate would have his own cell and yard in which he exercised and food was passed through a small window in the cell door. As the finish touches were being put on the penitentiary in 1829, the members of the society were granted official visitor status by the state legislature, making them the only non-government figures who were allowed access to the inmates; the society was also named the outside overseer of the Eastern State Penitentiary. The first prisoner entered the Eastern State Penitentiary in October 1829 while workmen were still finishing the construction of the building and almost six years later, there would be 352 inmates.

The nineteenth century proved to be a crucial and busy period for the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons. By 1829, most of the original members of the Society had passed away and their successors (i.e. Roberts Vaux, Samuel R. Wood) would be charged with the legacy of this group. The members tended to the Eastern State Penitentiary, the Arch Street Prison, and, until its 1835 closing, the Walnut Street Jail. In 1845, the society established the *Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy* (later know as *The Prison Journal*), which was published on a quarterly basis. The goal of the *Journal* was to “inform the public on issues dealing with the treatment of prisoners

and corrections in general". The first editors of the *Journal* were Frederick A. Packard, Alfred H. Love, John J. Lytle, and Joseph R. Chandler.

Upon celebrating its centennial in 1887, the society changed its name to the Pennsylvania Prison Society to reflect its state-wide devotion to penal reform. The members carried their reform efforts into the twentieth century and advocated reform in the following areas: pardons, the future of discharged prisoners, care for the mental health of prisoners, shortened terms for good behavior, and many other issues. In 1934, the society supported the Defender Association of Philadelphia, which offered legal counsel to indigent defendants.

Scope & content

The Pennsylvania Prison Society Records span from 1787 to 1966 and offer insight into the establishment, operations, and activities of the Society since its creation. Although the collection consists of only 29 volumes and one box of records, it is rich in details about the meetings and activities of the Pennsylvania Prison Society spanning almost two hundred years. The period of time covered by the minute books and papers is, for the most part, continuous with one exception. The third society minute book that would hold the minutes from 1833 to 1851 is missing. The minute books for the acting committee do not begin until 1798 and the volumes for the executive committee and the committee for the Eastern State Penitentiary are limited.

The small amount of materials in this collection has been divided into two series – *Minute books* (1787-1966, n.d.) and *Papers* (1787-1848, n.d.). The minute books contain a wealth of information about both the internal workings of the society and its members and also, events that were occurring in both Pennsylvania and the nation with regards to prison reform. The volumes touch on many topics including the building of the Eastern State Penitentiary; the conditions of the various county prisons in Pennsylvania; statistical charts that offer profiles of the inmates; acts the society brought before the state legislature; the material relief that the society provided; penal reform in different states; and issues of female and juvenile correction. While there is a wealth of information about prison reform in this collection, outside events, including the Civil War, are rarely mentioned, if at all; the exception would be the occasional mentions of epidemics that struck Philadelphia, including Yellow Fever and cholera.

The papers in this collection are comprised mainly of correspondence, miscellaneous reports and lists. The majority of the correspondence was written by the society members and prisoners incarcerated in Walnut Street Jail at the end of the eighteenth century. These letters offer insight into prison conditions, debt imprisonment, and the situations of those unjustly held or witnesses awaiting trial. There is also information about a convention held by the Friends of Prison Discipline in 1847.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Minute books, 1787-1966, n.d.	29 volumes, 8 folders
Series II	Papers, 1787-1848, n.d.	8 folders

Series description

Series 1. Minute books, 1787-1966, n.d. (Volumes 29, 8 folders)

The majority of the records of the Pennsylvania Prison Society are found in this series. There are 29 volumes of minute books that document the meetings of the general body of the Society; the Society's acting committee; the executive committee; and the committee assigned to the Eastern State Penitentiary. These books offer details into the operations of the society; the way in which they ran their meetings; how members were nominated and brought into the society; and how they instituted changes to their administration and constitution.

The first group of minute books contains records of the general body meetings from the Society's founding in 1787 to 1907; there appears to be a volume missing that would cover the time between 1832 and 1852. According to these minute books, the general body met on a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and December at a variety of locations including Carpenters' Hall and Elihu Pickering's School Room. The meetings usually consisted of the reports of each committee (i.e. acting, visiting, nominating); the discussion of potential members; and general issues regarding the prisons. In the earlier volumes, there are often ledger papers among the minutes that document the expenses of the Society, such as clothing, shoes, textile, and bibles for prisoners. There are also details about the relationship between the state and city government and the Pennsylvania Prison Society. One January 11, 1813, Jared Ingersoll, the attorney general, asked the Society if he could consult their minute books as he compiled a digest of penal laws. There are also many mentions of the Pennsylvania System of solitary confinement and the Eastern State Penitentiary in the meeting minutes. Volume 3 notes the death of John Haviland, the architect of the Eastern State Penitentiary, in 1852. In remembering Haviland, the members praised him as an "enlightened" man. This same volume notes the change in the meetings from quarterly to annual at the end of 1852, and also the establishment of the society's publication. Frederick Packard became the first editor of the *Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy*, which was issued quarterly. More importantly, this volume contains record of a disagreement within the society involving William Parker Foulke. In 1861, Foulke resigned from the society stating:

If the acting committee continued to pursue the policy which, during nearly three quarters of a century, has proved so useful to the state and has contributed so much to the promotion of reform in penal institutions, I could have found, heretofore, both pleasure and profit in the service of the society. Now that other counsels prevail and that the society had been placed unnecessarily in a position of antagonism to the legal administrators of our penitentiary system, I am unwilling to appear, to share a responsibility, the assumption of which I disapprove.

Other relevant topics in these minute books include the society's meeting space was relocated to "new room at State house row on the southwest corner of 5th and Chestnut" in 1896; a visit from the Women's Christian Temperance Union who sought to establish a women's prison; and the changing of their name from the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of the Public Prisons to the Pennsylvania Prison Society in 1886. Some of the volumes also include account statements with information about the investments of the society (volume 3).

The minute books of the acting committee are similar to those of the general body except that they tend to offer more detailed information. The acting committee's minute books also represent the largest part of the collection (volumes 6-22). The meetings of the acting committee focused specifically on the dealings with the different prisons in Philadelphia, namely Eastern State Penitentiary and Moyamensing Prison. Since the members of the acting committee visited the prisons and reported back to the society, these books offer a wealth of information about what transpired within the prison walls. The members noted whether the cells were "clean" and if the prisoners were "employed" and the reactions of prisoners to their charity and religious instruction. In 1798, the members recorded the effects of the Yellow Fever epidemic: "a state of idleness, dirt, and wretchedness exceeding anything of the kind which they have observed there." They also reported riots and other misbehavior that occurred within the prison. They stated that a persistent problem involved women being imprisoned supposedly for debts, but in reality they desired to "mingle" with the male prisoners. In 1820, there was a riot in which a black man was beaten to death and the rioters tried to climb the walls of the jail, but were fired upon by citizens (April 10, 1820).

Acting committee meeting minutes in the nineteenth century focused mainly on the building of the Eastern State Penitentiary and the development and implementation of the Pennsylvania System. The society's meetings were consumed with reports about the state of the prison, the moral education of the inmates, and their behavior. These volumes contain many charts that offer information about the prisoners (e.g., race, crime, length of sentence) and other charts recorded how many visits each member of the acting committee visited the prisoners. Acting committee members were assigned to different cell blocks in the penitentiary and they noted whether they visited prisoners at their doors and inside their cells. Occasionally, suicides of prisoners were recorded in the minutes. The members were very much involved in procuring books for the library in the Eastern State Penitentiary and also in monitoring the effects of tobacco on the prisoners. In volume 9, a doctor reported to the society that "95% of them ask for it [tobacco] when they enter" and he gives it to them until it "injures them."

In 1849, the acting committee expressed concern over the corruption of the administration of the Eastern State Penitentiary. Occasional conflicts occurred between members of the acting committee and the staff of the Eastern State Penitentiary during the 1830s and 1840s. In order to better understand how the administration was affecting the implementation of the Pennsylvania System, the society arranged for Doctors Evans, Hartsthorne, and Parrish to visit the penitentiary, observe the administration of the prison, and report their findings. At an acting committee meeting in 1849, the physicians expressed their belief that defects were present in the administration that needed to be remedied, otherwise "numerous and grave evils must arise to the prison and indirectly to the system of discipline supposed to be used there" (volume 7).

While the acting committee minutes from the later nineteenth century reveal that the society was involved in reforming prison administration and legislation, they continued their original mission of benevolence to prisoners. One of the focuses of the acting committee was the fate of discharged prisoners. The committee often gave them

financial assistance or arranged for their lodging (e.g., almshouse, asylum) and employment. Another issue that the occupied the committee was the mental health of the prisoners. Volume 8 contains mentions of the suicides of a few prisoners over a two-year period and also a report of the trustees and superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital. The committee was trying to ascertain both the causes of the prisoners' insanity and for which institution they were best suited, the penitentiary or the hospital. The committee began to record the names of the insane in the meeting minutes.

The activities of the acting committee continued to increase, as did the number of members on the committee. By 1870, the acting committee consisted of over fifty society members visiting over six hundred prisoners at the Eastern State Penitentiary. The committee also visited multiple county prisons, including ones in Berks, Dauphin, and Allegheny counties. The Philadelphia county prison mentioned in the minute books was Moyamensing Prison. Even though the committee was taking part in many different activities, it still showed concern for the efficacy of the Pennsylvania System, which began to fail under the pressure of a large prisoner population. In 1909, they lamented the "insufficient accommodations" that did not allow for separate confinement at the penitentiary (volume 15). Of note is volume 13, which shows that the members became concerned with the sensationalism of prisoners' confessions due to the incarceration of and press attention surrounding serial killer Herman Mudgett (a.k.a. H.H. Holmes). Mudgett stayed in Moyamensing Prison until he was executed in 1896 in Philadelphia.

The twentieth century meeting minutes show that the acting committee had become more systematic in their prison reforms. For example, the members instituted a method for prisoners to apply to the society for financial aid; the members would review the applications with several aspects in mind – living situation, family situation, and crime committed. One statistic shows that over ninety prisoners applied for aid and the society found twenty-two eligible (volume 16).

Several volumes contain the minutes of both the acting committee and the executive committee (volume 16-22). According to the minutes, the committees continued about their usual business in the twentieth century and the only new development came in the 1930s. Around this time, the society began to be influenced by theories in the field of mental health and social work. They consulted doctors and other experts and in 1933, 25 psychologists from the Department of Welfare visited county prisons in order to classify the inmates (volume 17). Society member Florence Sanville, with the aid of Dr. Susan Kingsbury and the sociology department of Bryn Mawr, conducted a study called "Women in County Jails" in 1934. The society also began to employ sociology students from Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Negley Teeters, a criminologist from Temple University, became an important figure in the later meetings. He wrote a history of the society in 1937 and soon became involved in the studies conducted by the society. His presence symbolized a new era for the society and in the annual reports, beginning in the 1940s, the staff of the society consisted of secretaries, 4 case workers, a student, and a supervisor demonstrating the connection now between the benevolent activities of the society and the emerging field of social work. Through the "Homeless Men Project," which was spurred by the large

amount of homeless men at 8th and Vine Streets, the society hoped to learn more about the homeless, the adequacy of available services, and how to coordinate like agencies. Teeters eventually became the vice president of the society around 1948. During the twentieth century, the acting and executive committees would tackle many more issues – unionizing, remaining true to its mission, and the limitations of a private institution.

Among the society's materials, there are four minute books, spanning eleven years, which contain the meeting minutes of the eight-person executive committee. The topics found in these books are very similar to those previously mentioned in the acting committee volumes. Of note is an entry in volume 23 that mentions the storage of the original minute books of the society in the vault at Christ Church. Also, these books mention the suspension of religious services, which, according to the society, the staff believed were interfering in the administration of the prison.

The committee to the Eastern State Penitentiary also recorded their meeting minutes and this collection has three volumes of their minutes. They touch on topics already mentioned in the other two types of minute books, but these volumes focus more on the lives of the prisoners and the administration of the penitentiary. There is information about the trades in which inmates were employed; the establishment of the penitentiary library; the acquisition (and often banning) of books; amounts of books borrowed each year by the inmates; and the health and hygiene of the prisoners and cleanliness of the cells.

Series 2. Papers, 1787-1848, n.d. (8 folders)

The correspondence of the Pennsylvania Prison Society contains information about the conditions of prisoners in the Walnut Street jail at the turn of the century. A number of letters were written by prisoners, most likely encouraged by society members, to officials like the attorney general asking for relief from the poor conditions of the jail. Many mentioned that they were hungry, naked, and that their visitors were improperly searched. Catherine Usdoon wrote to the society pleading for food for her and her infant, who was with her in the jail. The letters also reveal the injustices committed against debtors and people who were simply awaiting their release. They often had items stolen from them and sold for profit by the prison employees.

Several papers in this collection relate to the meetings held in 1847 and 1848 by the Friends of Prison Discipline. In 1848, this group of reformers from Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey held meetings in Philadelphia to discuss the merits of the two different systems of punishment that were employed at this time – New York System and Pennsylvania System. The former required prisoners to labor together in silence during the day and retire to their cells at night in solitude, while the latter believed that prisoners needed to remain in complete solitude (even when they labored) in order to fully reflect on their crimes.

Related materials

At The Historical Society of Pennsylvania:
Charles Morton Diary. Collection 1995.
Thompson Family Papers. Collection 654.
Vaux Family Papers. Collection 684.
William White Papers. Collection 711.
Association, society, and club records. Collection 756.
Annual Reports of the Inspectors of the Eastern State Penitentiary.

At other institutions:

William Parker Foulke Papers. American Philosophical Society.
Benjamin Rush Papers. College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Bibliography

Teeters, Negley. *They Were in Prison*. Philadelphia: John C. Winston Co., 1937.
The Pennsylvania Prison Society. <www.prisonersociety.org> (28 March 2007).

Subjects

Almshouses – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 18th century
Almshouses – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 19th century
Cholera
Church work with prisoners
Convict labor
Criminal law – Pennsylvania – 18th century
Criminal law – Pennsylvania – 19th century
Criminal law – Pennsylvania – 20th century
Debt, imprisonment for
Escapes
Ex-convicts
False imprisonment
Imprisonment – Pennsylvania – 18th century
Imprisonment – Pennsylvania – 19th century
Imprisonment – Pennsylvania – 20th century
Inmate guards
Jails – Pennsylvania – 18th century
Jails – Pennsylvania – 19th century
Jails – Pennsylvania – 20th century
Libraries and prisons – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia
Mentally ill prisoners
Moyamensing (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Prison libraries – Book lists
Prisons – Pennsylvania – 18th century
Prisons – Pennsylvania – 19th century
Prisons – Pennsylvania – 20th century
Psychiatric hospitals – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 19th century

Psychiatric hospitals – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Quakers
Religious work with prisoners
Society of Friends
Solitary confinement
Workhouses – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 18th century
Workhouses – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 19th century
Yellow Fever

Barclay, James J., 1794-1885
Bradford, Thomas, 1781-1851
Duffield, George, 1767-1817
Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824
Foulke, William Parker
Haviland, John, 1792-1852
Howard, John, 1726-1790
Packard, Frederick A. (Frederick Adolphus), 1794-1867
Rush, Benjamin, 1746-1813
Sergeant, John, 1779-1852
Sharpless, Townsend, b. 1793
Vaux, Richard, 1816-1895
Vaux, Roberts, 1786-1836
White, William, 1748-1836
Wistar, Thomas, 1764-1851

Auburn Prison
Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania
Ossining Correctional Facility
Pennsylvania Prison Society
Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons
Prison Discipline Society (Boston, Mass.)
Sing Sing Correctional Facility
State Penitentiary for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh (Pa.)
State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Administrative Information

Restrictions

None.

Acquisition information

Gift of the Pennsylvania Prison Society.

Preferred citation

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Processing note

The processing of this collection was made possible by a generous gift from Charles E. Mather III.

Box and folder listing

Series 1. Minute books

Folder title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Original constitution and first minute book (with the centennial commemoration of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, vol. 1)	May 8, 1787-October 9, 1809 (May 3-5, 1887)	Vol. 1	
Minutes (vol. 2)	January 8, 1810-October 8, 1832	Vol. 2	
Minutes (vol. 4)	January 12, 1852-April 22, 1880	Vol. 3	
Items removed from volume 3	1878	1	1
Minutes (vol. 5)	May 22, 1880-October 24, 1907	Vol. 4	
Minutes (vol. 6)	January 23, 1908-January 14, 1919	Vol. 5	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 2)	January 19, 1798-December 15, 1835	Vol. 6	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 3)	January 13, 1836-January 6, 1854	Vol. 7	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 4)	January 13, 1854-December 20, 1860	Vol. 8	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 5)	January 17, 1861-January 17, 1867	Vol. 9	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 6)	January 1867-June 21, 1883	Vol. 10	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 7)	September 20, 1883-January 24, 1889	Vol. 11	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 8)	January 31, 1889-September 21, 1893	Vol. 12	
Items removed from volume 12	1891-1892, n.d.	1	2
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 9)	October 19, 1893-April 20, 1899	Vol. 13	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 10)	May 18, 1899-January 16, 1908	Vol. 14	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 11)	January 23, 1908-September 19, 1918	Vol. 15	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 12)	October 24, 1918-December 9, 1932	Vol. 16	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 13)	January 13, 1833-December 16, 1938	Vol. 17	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 14)	January 19, 1939-December 17, 1942	Vol. 18	

Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 15)	January 14, 1943-October 18, 1945	Vol. 19	
Items removed from 19	1943, 1945	1	3
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 16)	November 20, 1945-December 16, 1948	Vol. 20	
Items removed from vol. 20	1946, 1948	1	4
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 17)	January 20, 1949-January 10, 1952	Vol. 21	
Acting Committee Minutes (vol. 18)	January 17, 1952-December 12, 1956	Vol. 22	
Items removed from vol. 22	1952, 1954	1	5
Executive Committee Minutes (vol. 19)	January 16, 1957-December 8, 1960	Vol.23	
Items removed from volume 23	1957-1959	1	6
Executive Committee Minutes (vol. 20)	January 12, 1961-December 13, 1962	Vol. 24	
Items removed from volume 24	1961-1962	1	7
Executive Committee Minutes (vol. 21)	January 10, 1963-December 10, 1964	Vol. 25	
Items removed from volume 25	1962-1964	1	8
Executive Committee Minutes (vol. 22)	January 14, 1965-December 8, 1966	Vol. 26	
Committee for Eastern State Penitentiary (vol. 1)	May 31, 1854-February 14, 1862	Vol. 27	
Committee for Eastern State Penitentiary (vol. 2)	February 13, 1862-January 16, 1879	Vol. 28	
Committee for Eastern State Penitentiary (vol. 3)	March 20, 1879-October 15, 1885	Vol. 29	

Series 2. Papers

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Correspondence	August 15, 1787-October 9, 1787	1	9
Correspondence	October 11, 1787-May 8, 1788	1	10
Correspondence	May 3, 1788-September 11, 1788	1	11
Correspondence	October 9, 1788-November 24, 1846	1	12
Reports	July 4, 1787-March 13, 1789	1	13
Friends of Prison Discipline papers	October 1847-June 1848	1	14
Lists and papers	February 1787-March 1792, n.d.	1	15
Miscellaneous financials	1787-1789	1	16