

Collection #
P 0742

**INDIANA GIRLS' SCHOOL
COLLECTION, 1920–1964**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 photograph folder, 1 manuscript folder, 9 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1920–1964

PROVENANCE: Kirsten Grosz, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004.0063

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first detention facility specifically for women in the country was established in 1869 in Indiana. It was called the Indiana Reformatory Institution for Women and Girls. As the name suggests, the institution housed both juvenile and adult women. Thirty years after opening, it was decided that the adults and juveniles should be separated. In 1907, the juveniles were moved to an institution named Indiana Girls' School, located at 2596 Girls School Road in Indianapolis.

Young women could only be committed by court order to the institution, and the reasons for internment ranged from intoxication, use of foul language, and truancy to less clear crimes such as incorrigibility and immorality. For the majority of the residents, their sentences were at least a year. Once their sentences were completed, along with successfully completing various training programs, the girls went through a year of probation before being released. It was not until 1926 that the institution set up a parole system.

By the 1960s, the institution had seen multiple riots from its residents. Two of these incidents occurred at the end of 1964. On 10 September 1964, the police were called in to manage a riot of 200 young women. Sixty-five of the residents escaped the institution during the riot. Upon investigation, the police cited the cause of the riot as a lack of responsibility and disorganization from school officials. A few months later in December, the institution had another riot, this one involving just eleven young women. The girls involved rioted after not having their chance to speak with the parole board.

In 1996, the institution was renamed the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. Despite the lack of specified gender in the new name, the institution remained all female until 2006, but the inclusion of young men only lasted a brief period. By 2009, the site closed as a juvenile facility. It now houses the Indiana Women's Prison.

Sources:

"4 of 5 Retaken after Girls Riot." *Indianapolis News*, December 03, 1964, Main ed.

"Indiana Girls School." Asylum Projects. Accessed October 18, 2018.
http://www.asylumprojects.org/index.php/Indiana_Girls_School.

"Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility." Indiana Department of Correction. Accessed October 18, 2018. <https://www.in.gov/idoc/2433.htm>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains 21 black and white photographs of the 1964 Indiana Girls' School riot. Also included are two high school Freshman English papers written by Lucile Nordyke in 1920: "Leonard Wood, Presidential Candidate" and "Society Life in Early Indiana". There are 9 printing blocks of varying size from ca. 1920 showing several views of the institution's buildings and of girls in various work and educational settings at the institution.

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Indiana Girls' School Riot, 1964

Lucile Nordyke, English Papers, 1920

Printing Blocks with Views of Indiana Girls' School,
ca. 1920: First Floor Cottage, Building the Bridge,
School Building and Cottage, Girls in Kitchen (2),
Girls Learning to Sew, Girls in Laundry, Girls in
Wagon, and Girls in Classroom

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1

Manuscripts,
Folder 1

Artifacts: 2004.0063