

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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"REFUGE" PHOTO ESSAY 1915

The Western House of Refuge for Women now known as the Albion Correctional Facility received its first inmate on January 3, 1894. The original complex of buildings was designed to accommodate 150 wayward women. Great importance was placed on training inmates in some useful and usually domestic skills while they were incarcerated.

1. Basic education through High School equivalency was taught at the prison school. This 1915 photo shows a class in session when Miss Mae Carothers was the principal.

2. Here in 1915 the domestic science room is shown with a class in cooking under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Webster Howard.

3. Inmates of the "Refuge" were noted for their fine needle work. Here we see in 1915, a class in dressmaking being taught by Miss Tyler.

4. The final and happy outcome was rehabilitation as seen in this photo sixty-eight years ago. "Refuge" Superintendent Miss Curtin, is bidding farewell to a girl as she leaves for parole while Miss Capitola Grinnell, a parole officer, looks on.