

Public Abstract

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Title:A Grave Injustice: Institutional Terror at the State Industrial Home for Negro Girls and the Paradox of Delinquent Reform in Missouri, 1888-1960

This thesis examines the treatment of African American juvenile delinquent girls in Missouri from 1888-1960. The thesis found that during the era of the training schools, Missouri's reformatories developed a reputation for their repressive treatment of juvenile delinquents. However, African American delinquents were more affected than their white peers. Indeed, white Missourians' racial attitudes toward African Americans, the political "spoils system," and the incompetence of penal officials impaired the rehabilitation of African American delinquent girls at the State Industrial Home for Negro Girls, at Tipton, Missouri. Moreover, the institutional failures at the State Industrial Home for Negro Girls created an environment that promoted the physical abuse of African American girls at this institution.