

## **Board of Inspectors of the New Western Penitentiary State Documents**

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building  
607 South Drive  
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

## Table Of Contents

Summary Information .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	3
Biographical / Historical, Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3

## Summary Information

**Repository:** Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library  
**Creator:** New Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania  
**Title:** Board of Inspectors of the New Western Penitentiary State Documents  
**Identifier:** INS-NWP  
**Date:** 1911 - 1929  
**Date:** Majority of material found within 1916

**Physical Description:** 5 Megabytes (1 PDF file)

**Language of Materials:** English

## Scope and Contents

The Board of Inspectors of the New Western Penitentiary was created to oversee the administration and conditions of the correctional institution, and to ensure that penal law was being upheld. The Board was responsible for reporting to the Governor and General Assembly of Pennsylvania the annual review, including prison statistics, improvements, and happenings.

The publications of the Board of Inspectors of the New Western Penitentiary contain annual reports. Selected topics from these publications include annual prison statistics and demographic information. The bulk of the current material is dated from 1916.

## Biographical / Historical

The State Correctional Institution at Rockview, originally referred to as “New Western State Penitentiary”, was established in 1911. It was intended to be a maximum security prison to replace the aging Western State Penitentiary. In 1920, its plans were changed to make Rockview a medium-security prison and operate as a farm extension institution of Western State Penitentiary. Rockview has been the site of the administration of the death penalty in Pennsylvania since 1915. In the 1920’s, Pennsylvania’s major prison facilities were placed under the jurisdiction of the old Department of Welfare, along with mental health facilities and juvenile institutions. It was during this time that the Board was likely dissolved in favor of Department authority.

## Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of Welfare (former parent agency)

## Administrative Information

### Publication Statement

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
- Prisons Pennsylvania
- State government publications