

“Report on the Desplaines Street Police Station.” October 27, 1909. Chicago History Museum. Chicago Woman’s Club Records. Box 22, Folder 1.

Our Chairman, Mrs. Jackman, asked me to give a report on a building on Desplaines Street near the river, where no cells for women have been provided. This report was sent in from one of the business meetings of the entire Club, October 27, 1909.

After going to the City Hall and asking the Chief of Police about this building, I was told this building was to be erected some time. His Secretary directed me to the Central Police Station, a new building containing only two cells where no women are brought as there is no matron there. This police station is a sort of annex of the Harrison Police Station. Occasionally, the officer said, prisoners are brought to the Central Police Station when the officers wish to speak to them.

The officer said the police station I evidently had in mind was on Waldo and Desplaines Sts. Captain Healey of this station said he had sent a complaint in to have this building condemned, as it is not fit for the prisoners nor the officers.

I made a thorough investigation and the place, to say the least, was disgusting and seemed unsafe.