



Prison History

Recovering the Penal Landscape
of 19th Century England

www.prisonhistory.org



Prison History

How many prisons were there in 19th century England? How big were they? Where were they located? Where can I find out more about them?

Based in the Centre for the History of Crime, Policing and Justice at The Open University, www.prisonhistory.org aims to reconstruct the 19th century penal landscape. Currently, it contains information on nearly 850 English prisons, lock ups and hulks used to confine those accused and convicted of crime between 1800 and 1899.

www.prisonhistory.org not only tells you where an institution was located, what jurisdiction it fell under, and how many prisoners were confined within it, but also lists the key primary sources that describe the prison, as well as its surviving archives.

Search Prisons...

- Explore the interactive map showing the locations of all penal institutions
- Find a specific institution
- Search for different types of prisons, for institutions located in a geographical area or for institutions that existed in a particular time period

Browse Records...

- Get a list of all surviving prison archives in England
- Focus on records of prison management, daily business within the institution, prison staff, prisoners, prison construction, and more
- Compare types of record-keeping across the 19th century penal estate

For more information, to contribute to the project, or to get in touch, visit www.prisonhistory.org/contact



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Images from Henry Mayhew and John Binny, *The Criminal Prisons of London and Scenes of Prison Life* (London, 1862), facing pp. 394, 398 & 416 © Rosalind Crone, private collection.