



*New York State Archives*

**Syracuse State School for Mental Defectives Dietary Record  
Books B1640**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	The series consists of dietary records of the Syracuse State Institution for Feeble-Minded Children, which was renamed in 1919 as the Syracuse State School for Mental Defectives. The registers list separate breakfast, dinner, and supper menus for family, employees, and pupils according to date and building.
<b>Creator:</b>	Syracuse State School for Mental Defectives
<b>Title:</b>	Syracuse State School for Mental Defectives dietary record books
<b>Quantity:</b>	4 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	19 volumes
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1894-1920
<b>Series:</b>	B1640

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## Arrangement

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Chronological.

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## Scope and Content Note

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The series consists of dietary records of the Syracuse State Institution for Feeble-Minded Children, which was renamed in 1919 as the Syracuse State School for Mental Defectives. The registers list separate breakfast, dinner, and supper menus for family, employees, and pupils according to date and building.

The records are of interest for nutritional analysis, to study institutional economy, and to document methods of food preparation (steaming, straining, etc.) used for those with severe disabilities. Also, the Syracuse facility had a long history of agricultural employment for resident students, both to teach farming and to raise crops and milk for consumption there and at other

state institutions. In 1883, Syracuse started the first of many "colonies" established throughout the state; the last crops were planted on its farms in 1971.

Menus reveal how the same ingredients were prepared differently for each category of eater, to accommodate disabled patients while maintaining nutrition. For example, the steamed beef and fried potatoes served to employees become "hash" for pupils. Pupils' menus often include syrups, puddings, and soups.

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## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

Volume list is available at the repository.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

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## Access Terms

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- Registers (Lists)
- Menus
- New York (State)
- Children with mental disabilities--New York (State)
- Diet
- Managing intellectual disability facilities
- Assisting intellectually disabled people
- Intellectual disability facilities patients
- Syracuse (N.Y.)
- People with mental disabilities--Institutional care--New York (State)
- Associations, institutions, etc.--Management
- New York (State). Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- Syracuse State Institution for Feeble-Minded Children

- New York (State). Department of Mental Hygiene