Their Sisters' Keepers
Their Sisters' Keepers
Women's Prison Reform in America, 1830–1930
Estelle B. Freedman

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Estelle B. Freedman is a Hamilton Prize winner for 1978. The
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To the memory of my grandparents
Acknowledgments

I began to study the history of women’s prison reform in 1972, when women’s history was not yet included in the graduate curriculum. No one I talked with then knew why separate women’s prisons had originated in the nineteenth century, and I decided to find an answer. Thanks to the growth of women’s history, and in turn to the feminist movement, I have been able to ask many more questions about this topic and to begin to answer them in this book. I am grateful to the students and teachers of women’s history for making this study possible, and to the Horace H. Rackham Graduate School of the University of Michigan for recognizing the importance of women’s studies by establishing the Hamilton Prize.

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