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Editor's Note

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One of the long-term goals of the Publications Committee of the Newport Historical Society is to publish a history of each of the four buildings owned or operated by the Society. In 1990, "The Architectural History of the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House" appeared in *Newport History*. This property, built about 1675 and owned by the Newport Historical Society since 1927, is the oldest house in Newport and is operated as a museum. The Brick Market (1772) is owned by the city of Newport and is operated by the Newport Historical Society as the Museum of Newport History. The Brick Market was researched extensively during the planning stages for the museum. The Friends Meeting House (1699) was the subject of detailed study during its restoration in the late 1960's, but much new information recently has come to light as a result of a study by architectural students from Roger Williams University, and a building survey by the Preservation Cooperative, Ltd. of Newport. Both the Brick Market and the Friends Meeting House are awaiting detailed histories, incorporating this new information.

The fourth of the Newport Historical Society's properties is the Seventh Day Baptist/Sabbatarian Meeting House, built in 1730. The Seventh Day Baptists and their meeting house are the subjects of this special issue of *Newport History*. The author, Don A. Sanford, utilized resources at the Newport Historical Society, the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society in Janesville, Wisconsin, and a detailed building survey by the Preservation Cooperative, Ltd. The result is a history of a congregation and a place of worship that reveals new findings and debunks old myths.

Don A. Sanford is a direct descendant of Samuel and Tacy Hubbard, charter members of the Newport Seventh Day Baptist church, founded in 1671. Sanford has written three books on the history of Seventh Day Baptists: *A Free People in Search of a Free Land*, which traces the western migration of Seventh Day Baptists from founding congregations in the east; *A Choosing People: A History of Seventh Day Baptists*, which is a documented history of the denomination; and a condensed version, *Conscience Taken Captive*. He has also edited and written lessons for the adult quarterly of his denomination, and has written a book on organization and polity, *Greater Than its Parts*. Sanford is a graduate of Milton College, received a Bachelor of Divinity from the Alfred University School of Theology, and a Master of Science in teaching with a major in history from the University of Wisconsin. He has served pastorates in New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin, worked in the library at Milton College, and taught social studies before retiring to his position as historian at the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society in 1987. He is joined in research and writing by his wife, Ilou, who is also a descendant of the Hubbards.