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Editor's Notes

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Editor's Note:

When people think of Newport's tradition of architectural preservation, they usually think of the period roughly from 1960 to 1970. Numerous professional and grass-roots organizations flourished during this decade, concentrating their efforts on preserving Newport's architecture in reaction to national and local waves of "urban renewal." More than 100 buildings were saved, restored, or preserved, most notably in the Hill and Point sections of Newport.

However, nothing exists in a vacuum, and the preservation efforts of the 1960s are no exception. They were built upon work already being done by the Newport Historical Society and the Preservation Society of Newport County. In fact, the first historic restoration of a building in Newport may have been accomplished by the Newport Historical Society when it acquired the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House as its headquarters in 1884, at a time when much of Newport's historic architecture was in danger from decay, demolition, and neglect.

Into this context stepped Arthur Leslie Green, who, from about the turn of the century until his death in 1945, purchased, traded, and scrounged for historic relics and architectural artifacts, many from Newport buildings that were in imminent danger of destruction. This was the age of the artifact and the curio, when parts were often considered more important than the whole. Green assembled his collection of relics and architectural fragments on and into the Weaver-Franklin House, which he moved from the Point to Training Station Road in Newport, creating a pastiche of preserved items interpreted apart from their original context.

Nevertheless, Green did preserve these items and generate interest in them and the history of colonial Newport. Perhaps inadvertently, he also preserved an entire building; the Weaver-Franklin House still stands on Training Station Road.

John M. Carpenter, the author of *Pieces of the Past: Arthur Leslie Green and the Weaver-Franklin House*, is a graduate of Brown University and received a Master's Degree in historic preservation from Boston University.

Also in this issue are the annual reports of the President, Executive Director, and staff of the Newport Historical Society. These seem to grow in length each year, a testament to the ever-expanding role the Newport Historical Society takes in the preservation of the history of Newport County.