Editor's Note

Howard S. Browne
THE CLIFF WALK AT NEWPORT

EDITOR'S NOTES

In 1988 the National Park Service conducted a study, as requested by Congress, of alternatives for the protection and management of Newport's famous recreational park, the Cliff Walk. One possibility was the inclusion of the Cliff Walk in the National Park System. This and other options were presented for public review in September of 1988. The application for its designation as a National Historic Site is still in the process of review.

The article in this issue of Newport History was originally part of the application for the National Park designation. The author, Larry Lowenthal, is a United States National Park Service historian at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Springfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Lowenthal, a graduate of the Masters program in history at Yale University, has been with the National Park Service for a period of about twenty years.

The Cliff Walk of Newport is described as it evolved over several decades. During this period, natural forces worked to change the face of the cliffs, while social and cultural developments influenced its character. Although the Cliff Walk as an entity has never been defined, its importance to Newport society has never been questioned.