Newport’s Waterfront: A Brief History

James C. Garman
CHP Department
Salve Regina University
Four Premises

• Since 1639, the waterfront has been a mixture of commercial, industrial, and residential spaces
• The balance of those uses has changed in line with regional and national trends
• The waterfront has never been a particularly pretty place
• Accessibility to the waterfront was open for the first 350 years or so
The main street afterwards extended to here.

The distance extended its width to the west side of Tanner.

A Governor Coddington's House, taken down in 1835
B Henry Bull's House, 1649
C The Town Spring
D Nicholas Easton's House, built 1639
E Mill near where jail now stands
Newport the Seat of the Honble Ben de Arnold
An Historian Asks…

- What (if anything) can be done to evoke the previous mix of uses on the waterfront?
- What aspects of the past will new design evoke?
- What future exists for the fragments of the previous waterfronts?