

# New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and Their Impact on American Society

**Presenter: Paul Wainwright**

*A New Hampshire Humanities event hosted by New Ipswich Historical Society*



Webster Meetinghouse (NH)



New Ipswich Old Town Hall



New Ipswich Old Town Hall

New England's colonial meetinghouses embody an important yet little-known chapter in American history. Built mostly with tax money, they served as both places of worship and places for town meetings, and were the centers of life in colonial New England communities. Using photographs of the few surviving "mint condition" meetinghouses as illustrations, Paul Wainwright tells the story of the society that built and used them, and the lasting impact they have had on American culture.

Artistic photography and a love of history have been long-standing interests of Paul Wainwright, but he was captured by physics in high school and eventually wound up getting a PhD in the field from Yale. Wainwright worked for many years at Bell Labs, with photography being a continuing avocation. Since 2001, he has pursued his love of photography full-time, working in a traditional manner utilizing sheet film, a large-format camera, and silver gelatin printing. He is especially drawn to photographing historic structures in very personal and introspective ways.

**Thursday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m.  
New Ipswich Library (6 Main Street)\***

\* Details to attend via Zoom are posted on the NIHS website: [www.newipswichhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.newipswichhistoricalsociety.org)

***Free and open to the public!***



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