



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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To whom it may concern:

It is a pleasure to write in support of publication of Paul Wainwright's forthcoming book, *The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*.

The New England meetinghouse is an iconic building type that was not duplicated in any other region or society. Sheltering religious services and secular town meetings alike, meetinghouses were imposing structures that, on principle, were kept plain in form and detailing. Embodying the eighteenth-century New England tenet that every town should support a minister of its choosing, meetinghouses derive from an age before the separation of church and state. They stand as physical reminders of the evolution that has occurred in American society from colonial days to the modern era.

As the traditional shelter for the New England town meeting, these structures likewise symbolize a regional system of government that has endured to this day and has been called "the purest form of democracy."

Despite their deliberate plainness, New England meetinghouses are rich in features that inspire the eye of a photographer who delights in texture, shadow, and the beauty of simple geometric forms. Wainwright's photographs respond to this evocative power. These compelling images will inspire in the reader an appreciation for photographic art and a commitment to preserve these now-rare buildings. The accompanying text will instill historical understanding.

The University Press of New England has made a commitment to publish this book. Like most academic presses, UPNE must seek subvention to assist in the production of a volume which, by its nature, will embody the highest quality of design and presswork. I urge you to support this effort.

Sincerely,

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian