

New England's Colonial Meetinghouses And Their Impact on American Society

Jaffrey Historical Society

Jaffrey Meetinghouse
June 12, 2014



New England's Colonial Meetinghouses And Their Impact on American Society

It started as an artistic project...

Colonial Meeting-Houses
of
New Hampshire

Eva A. Speare



***MEETINGHOUSE
& CHURCH
IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND***

THE PURITAN TRADITION
AS REFLECTED IN THEIR ARCHITECTURE,
HISTORY, BUILDERS & MINISTERS

EDMUND W. SINNOTT

Who Were the Puritans?

A Byproduct of the
Protestant Reformation

New England's Meetinghouses: Monuments to the Formation of our Nation

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- Participatory Government

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- Separation of church and state

New England's Meetinghouses:

Monuments to the Formation of our Nation

- Participatory Government
- Separation of church and state
- Original Tea Party was organized in one

What is a Colonial Meetinghouse?

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- Built for both town business *and* worship

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- Usually built with tax money

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- Built for both town business *and* worship
- Usually built with tax money
- The center of the community

What does a meetinghouse look like?



Millville, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Millville, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Sandown, NH

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Sandown, NH

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Location, Location, Location...

Location, Location, Location...

1. Where should we put the meetinghouse?



Sandown, NH

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Sandown, NH

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Location, Location, Location...

1. Where should we put the meetinghouse?
2. Let's move the meetinghouse.



Waldoboro, ME

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Location, Location, Location...

1. Where should we put the meetinghouse?
2. Let's move the meetinghouse.
3. Where did the town go?



Allenstown, NH

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Superlatives:

Oldest meetinghouse



Hingham, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Hingham, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Oldest Anglican meetinghouse



Wickford, RI

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Wickford, RI

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Oldest Town Hall in continuous use



Pelham, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Oldest steeple



Boston, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

The most original glass



Amesbury, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Amesbury, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Best restoration



West Barnstable, MA



West Barnstable, MA

Superlatives:

The biggest dispute



Brooklyn, CT

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Brooklyn, CT

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Brooklyn, CT

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Longest family lineage:

The Custodian of the Key



South Bristol, ME

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Used for the most other things



Lynnfield, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14

Superlatives:

Most interesting graveyard

JOSIAH PEILBRICK

DIED

Nov. 9, 1863.

Aged 64 y'rs.

—•••—
*O may this death remind us all,
That here we've no abiding place;
But the next shaft of death that falls,
May call us to our resting place.*

Danville, NH

SARAH P.

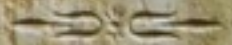
Wife of
JOSIAH PHILBRICK.

former wife of
BATCHELDER HOYT.

Died May 20, 1870.

Aged 60 yrs. 1 mo.

& 28 ds.



Mother we miss thee.

JOSIAH

Nov

Age

O may this
That here
But the near
May all us

Danville, NH

Superlatives:

The best street sign



THAT'S IT LN

Alna, ME

What happened to meetinghouses?

What happened to meetinghouses?

1. Separation of church and state

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New England frugality:

What happened to meetinghouses?

1. Separation of church and state

New England frugality:

Church upstairs, Town Hall downstairs



Rindge, NH

What happened to meetinghouses?

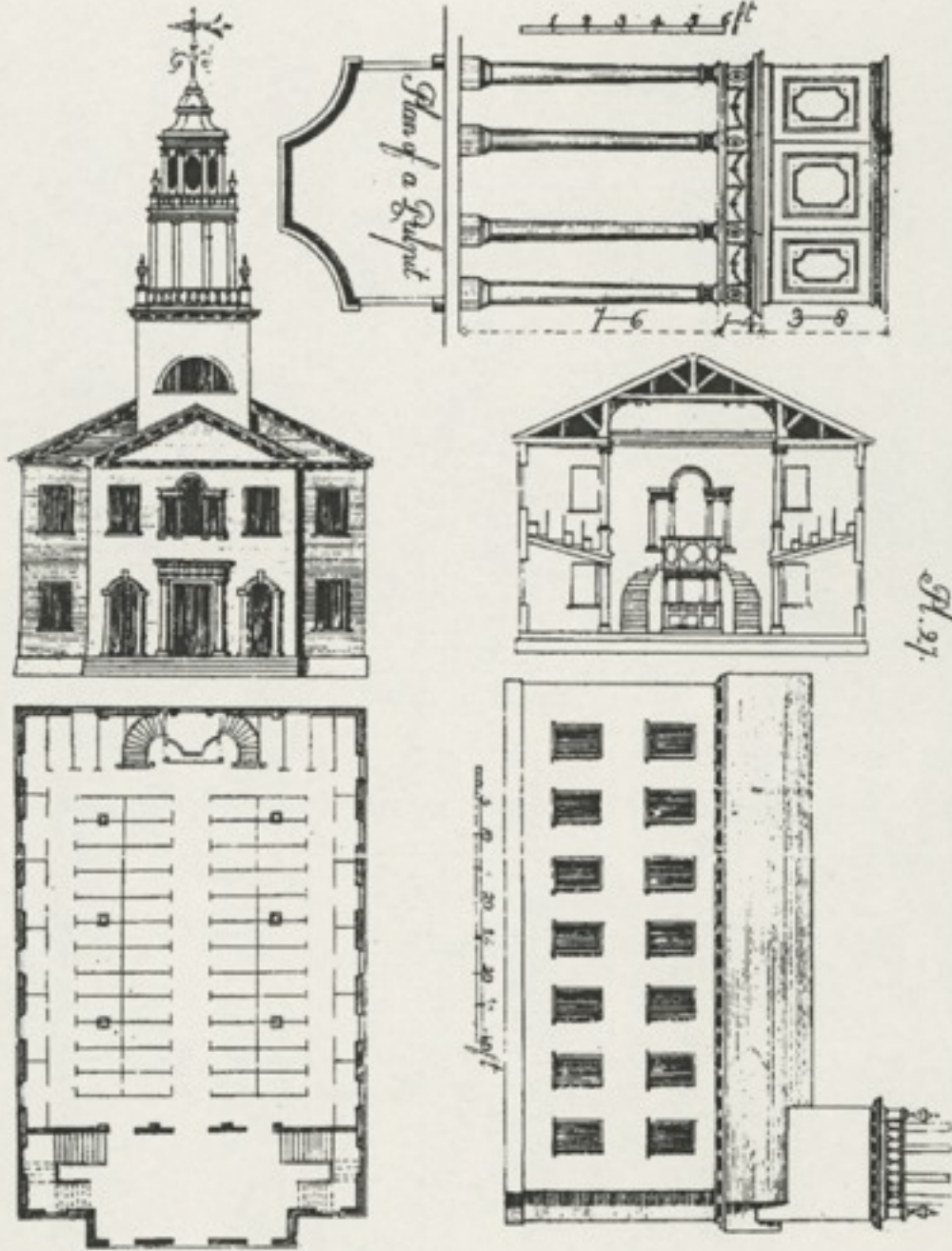
1. Separation of church and state

What happened to meetinghouses?

1. Separation of church and state

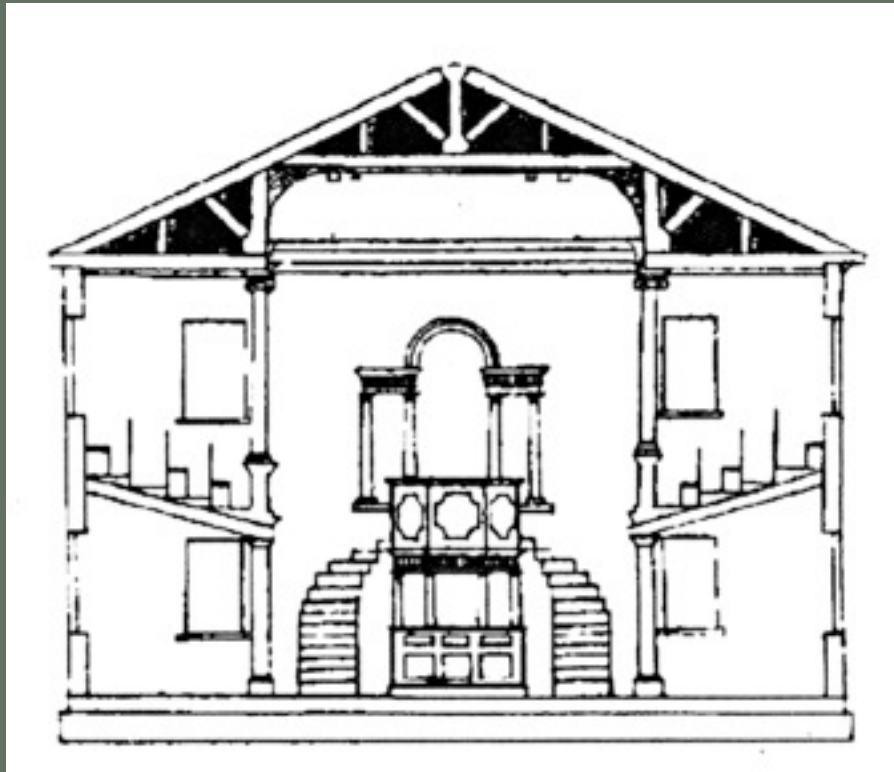
2. *The Country Builder's Assistant*

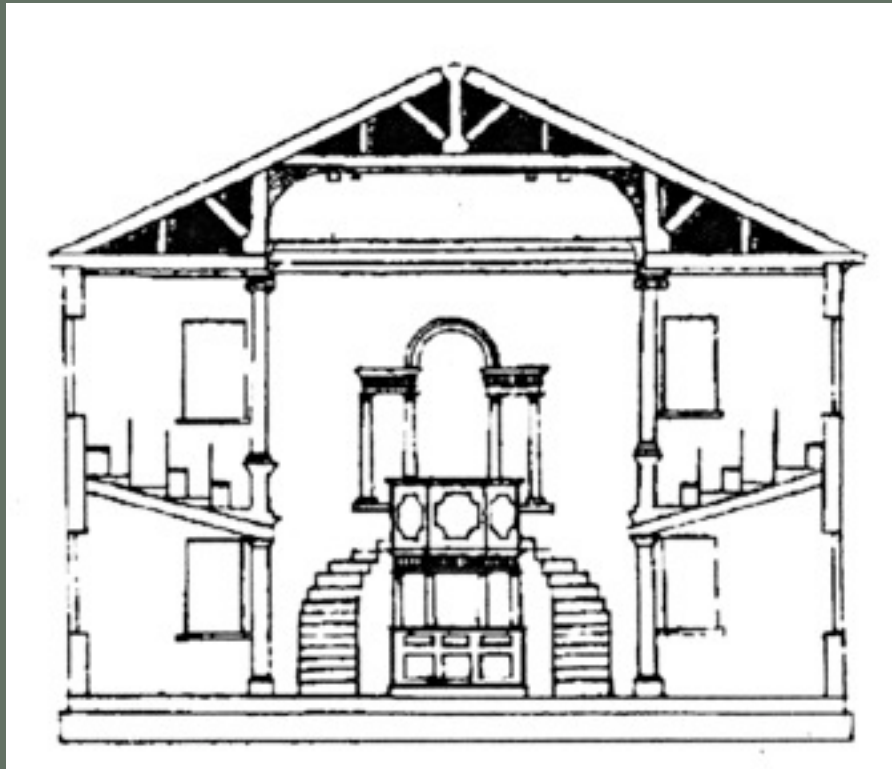
Published by Asher Benjamin in 1797











Jaffrey, New Hampshire



The Town-house at Jaffrey
1774



Wednesday, August 27, 14

Templeton Steeples

All but two of the Templeton-derived meetinghouses remain. Notice the variation in ornamentation and proportion as each town makes its own design modifications. Most of the photographs shown below were taken during the fall of 2007. You may click on an image to start a larger-format slide show.



Templeton (1811)



Troy (1816)



Fitzwilliam (1816)



Dublin (1818)



Hancock (1819)



Acworth (1821)



Newport (1823)

New Boston (1823)



Jaffrey (1823)

Westmoreland (1826)



Templeton, MA

Wednesday, August 27, 14



Templeton, MA



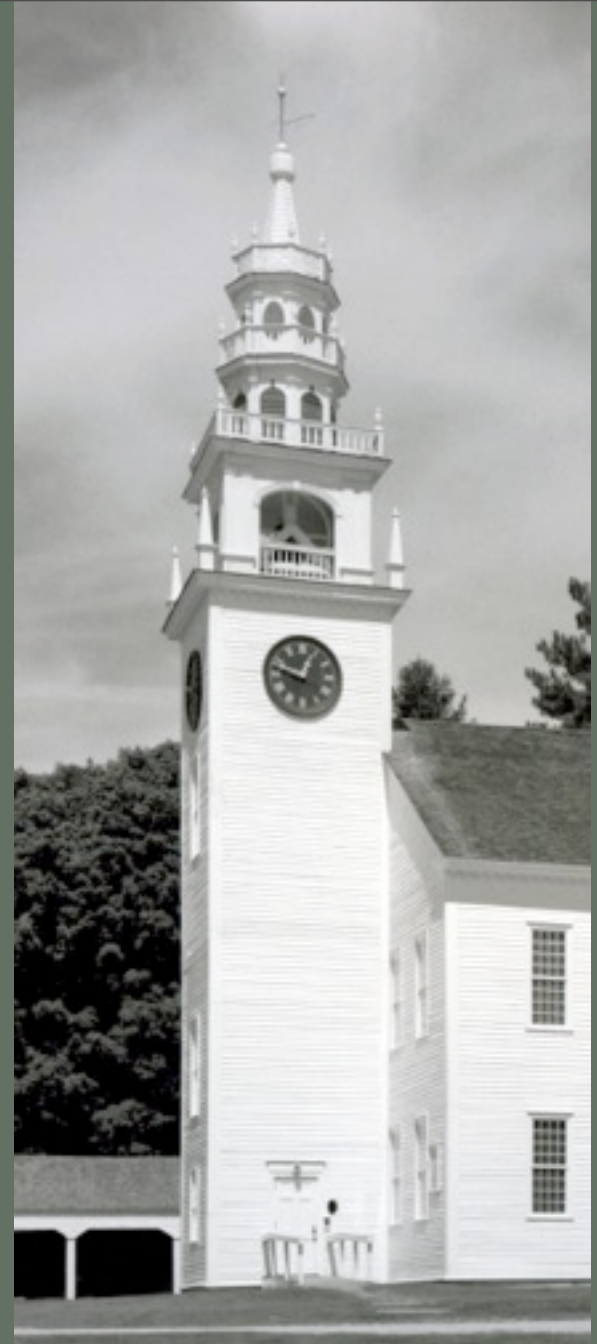
Fitzwilliam, NH



Templeton, MA



Fitzwilliam, NH



Jaffrey, NH

Where are the “Survivors” Located?



Source: www.colonialmeetinghouses.com

About the artistic work



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About the Book

A Space for Faith

The Colonial Meetinghouses
of New England



Photographs by Paul Wainwright
with essay by Peter Benes

About the Book

\$35

Cash, check, IOU, whatever...

About the Book

Photographs by Paul Wainwright

Essay by Peter Benes

Foreword by Brent Glass

Commentary by William Earle Williams

Published by Peter E. Randall,
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Awards

- American Association of State and Local History
Leadership in History Award of Merit
- Independent Publishers 2011 Gold Medal
Best Northeast Regional Nonfiction
Book of the Year
- New England Book Festival:
Best Photography/Art Book of 2010
- Independent Booksellers of New England
Finalist in the 2010 Book Awards



Multimedia Introduction to the Book