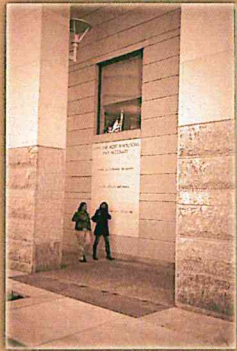
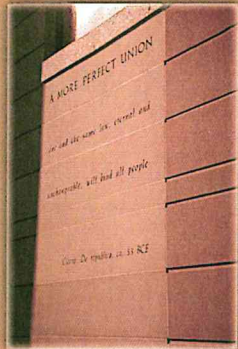




Explore the 33 wall panels around the perimeter of the courthouse, and in the first floor halls, inscribed with historic texts regarding peace, freedom and justice.



## CREDITS

Fred Chappell - poet

Robin Brailsford - artist

Mecklenburg County Courthouse  
832 E Fourth St  
Charlotte NC 28202

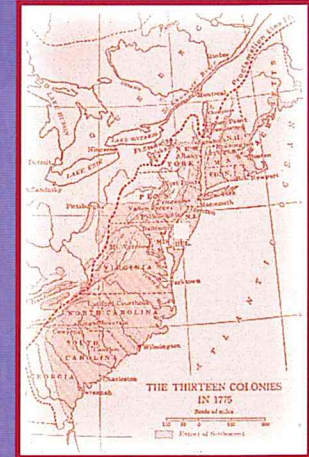


Artwork commissioned by the  
Arts & Science Council  
and the Public Art Commission  
in partnership with Mecklenburg County

Brochure created by  
Student - Sonya Passi Instructor - Liz LaBlond  
Palomar Community College San Marcos, California

“We hold  
these truths  
to be  
self-evident.”

- US Constitution



MECKLENBURG  
COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE



In 1789 the Constitution of the United States was established. It incorporated the principles of government by the people that our founding fathers had already set forth in the Declaration of Independence of 1776. It also embodied ideals of freedom and justice that prophets, poets, philosophers, and political leaders had spoken of almost since the beginning of recorded history. From the eighth century BCE until years

# TRIUMPH



of eighteenth-century European Enlightenment, profound sages like Aristotle, Cicero, John Locke, and Thomas Jefferson made level the footing upon which our system of government rests.

The Declaration and the Constitution represent the triumph of two thousand years of humankind's dream of freedom. The inscriptions on the facades of Mecklenburg County Courthouse suggest the history of thought that produced these documents, the ideas we consent to live by and are willing to die for. The sources of these ideas come from many parts of the western world, from different nations, ethnicities, and ways of thought. Their embodiment in our American

# of the

democratic system of government is the one to which other contemporary societies aspire.

Upon interior columns that support part of the structure of the Courthouse are mounted phrases of verse that encapsulate some of the great sentiments inscribed on the exterior. Within the phrase from the Declaration, for example, "certain inalienable rights," is an echo of Plato's

proclamation that "everywhere there is one principle of justice," and that thought is mounted here as well as above the lintel of the Supreme Court in Washington: "equal justice under law."

The texts cut into the



# DREAM

stones of this Courthouse are designed to remind all who read them - judge and law officer, plaintiff and defendant, student and casual passerby - that our destinies as individuals and as citizens are guided by these truths wrested from history and paid for with patriot blood.