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COLECCIÓN FOTOS EMBAJADA EE.UU.

UNITED STATES CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON'S BIRTH

The reconstructed House of Burgesses, legislative assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, at Williamsburg, Virginia, where Thomas Jefferson served as a representative of Albemarle County. Jefferson was first elected to the House of Burgesses in 1769, when 26 years of age. In 1773, he was appointed a member of the first Committee of Correspondence established by the colonial legislatures, and in 1775 was appointed a member of the Virginia delegation to the Continental Congress. In 1776, after drafting the historic Declaration of Independence, Jefferson was again elected to the Virginia legislature, resigning his seat in the Continental Congress to undertake important reforms in his native State. As a Virginia legislator, he helped revise the State's legal code. He introduced successful legislation to provide citizenship opportunities for new immigrants and to abolish the customs of entails and primogeniture. He also introduced bills to abolish slavery in Virginia and to establish a system of public schools. His struggle to secure religious liberty in Virginia was finally won in 1786, after he had left the State legislature. (SD-50923)

(No. 2 of 11-photo Picture Story #121. See accompanying text.)

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