

A local collection of wooden nickels.

Beginning with the July 2025, Low Country Coin Club will be featuring pictures of historic Charleston, SC banks on the wooden nickels used to promote the club's twice a year coin shows. The idea for this series of wooden nickels came from an original article in *The Numismatist*, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association (money.org). Written by Wendell Wolka, in January 1923.

Six of the bank buildings still stand on the streets of downtown Charleston. Some are open for tourists, but others have become private offices which are not available for touring.

The **Bank of Charleston**, located at 16 Broad Street is featured on the Wooden Nickel promoting the July 25-27, 2025 coin show.
Built in 1817



Charleston City Hall, 80 Broad Street formerly the Charleston Branch of the **First Bank of the United States**, is featured on the nickel promoting January 30-February 1, 2026 coin show.



The Farmers and Exchange Bank, 141 East Bay Street was established (chartered) in 1852 and began operations around 1853 is featured on the wooden nickel for the July 31 through August 2, 2026 coin show.

Farmers and Exchange Bank issued its own banknotes (obsolete currency) in denominations from \$5 to \$100. These notes featured Southern imagery, such as cotton bales, enslaved people working fields, oxen carts, and portraits like John C. Calhoun. It operated as a private/commercial bank in Charleston's expanding financial district along East Bay Street. Like many Southern banks of the era, it was tied to the agrarian economy (e.g., cotton). It functioned through the lead-up to and during the early Civil War, issuing notes as late as 1863. The bank operated until the end of the Civil War in 1865. Some sources note it was effectively destroyed or its operations ended due to Union troops (rather than purely financial failure, unlike some peers). The building, in private ownership, still stands on East Bay Street.



Wooden Nickels for future shows will have images of **The Bank of South Carolina**, the **State Bank South Carolina** and the **Bank of the State of South Carolina**.

The Bank of South Carolina
50 Broad Street



State Bank South Carolina

1 Broad Street



Bank of the State of South Carolina.
84 Broad Street

