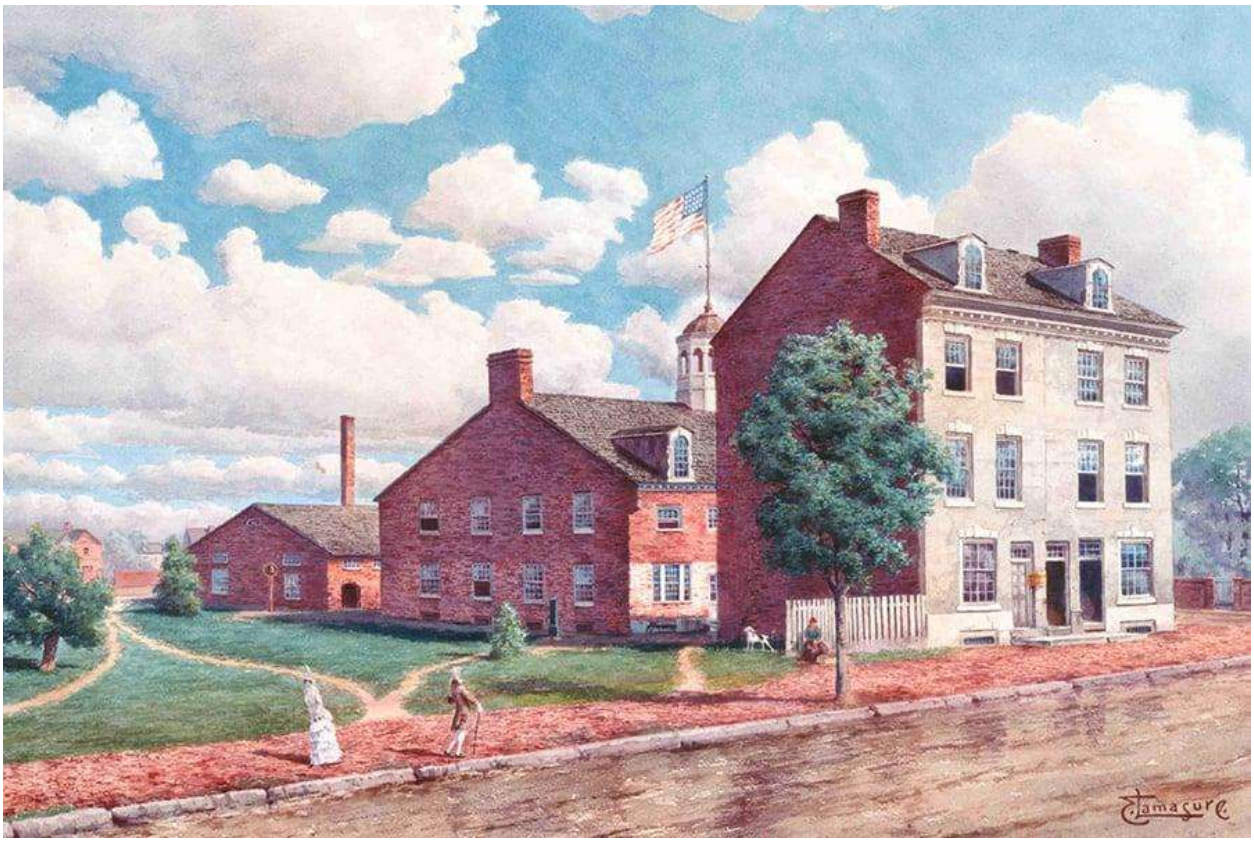
**The Philadelphia Mint: The Birthplace of America's Coinage**







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The Philadelphia Mint is the oldest and most historically significant mint in the United States. Established in 1792, it was the first federal building authorized under the U.S. Constitution and has been producing American coinage for more than 230 years. From the nation's first copper cents to today's circulating coins, commemoratives, medals, and master dies, the Philadelphia Mint has remained at the heart of American numismatics.

For collectors, the Philadelphia Mint represents much more than a production facility—it is where the history of American money began.

**Where Is the Philadelphia Mint?**

The current Philadelphia Mint is located at:

**151 North Independence Mall East**
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106**

It opened in 1969 and is the fourth Philadelphia Mint building. Located just a short walk from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, it sits only a few blocks from the location of the original Mint established in 1792. The facility offers free public tours where visitors can watch coins being struck from an elevated observation gallery.

**Why Philadelphia?**

When Congress passed the Coinage Act on April 2, 1792, Philadelphia was the nation's capital and the country's largest city. It was the center of government, commerce, banking, and science.

President George Washington appointed David Rittenhouse as the first Mint Director. Rittenhouse purchased land at Seventh and Arch Streets, where construction of America's first mint began. It became the first federal building erected under the Constitution.

**The First Philadelphia Mint (1792–1833)**



FIRST UNITED STATES MINT
Built in Philadelphia in 1792


LIBERTY
1793
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ONE CENT
1/100




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Production officially began in 1793 with 11,178 large copper cents.

Among the famous early coins struck here were:

- Chain Cent
- Wreath Cent
- Liberty Cap coins
- Flowing Hair Silver Dollar

- Draped Bust coinage
- Early Half Cents
- Gold Eagles
- Half Eagles
- Quarter Eagles

These early coins were produced using hand-operated screw presses, requiring tremendous labor compared with today's automated machinery.

**Growth of the Mint**

As America expanded, so did the demand for coinage.

The first Mint soon became too small.

A devastating fire in 1816 destroyed portions of the original buildings, including important machinery. Although repairs were made, officials realized that a larger, more modern facility would eventually be necessary.

**The Second Philadelphia Mint (1833–1901)**

The second Mint opened at Chestnut and Juniper Streets.

Designed in a Greek Revival style by architect William Strickland, it resembled an ancient Greek temple.

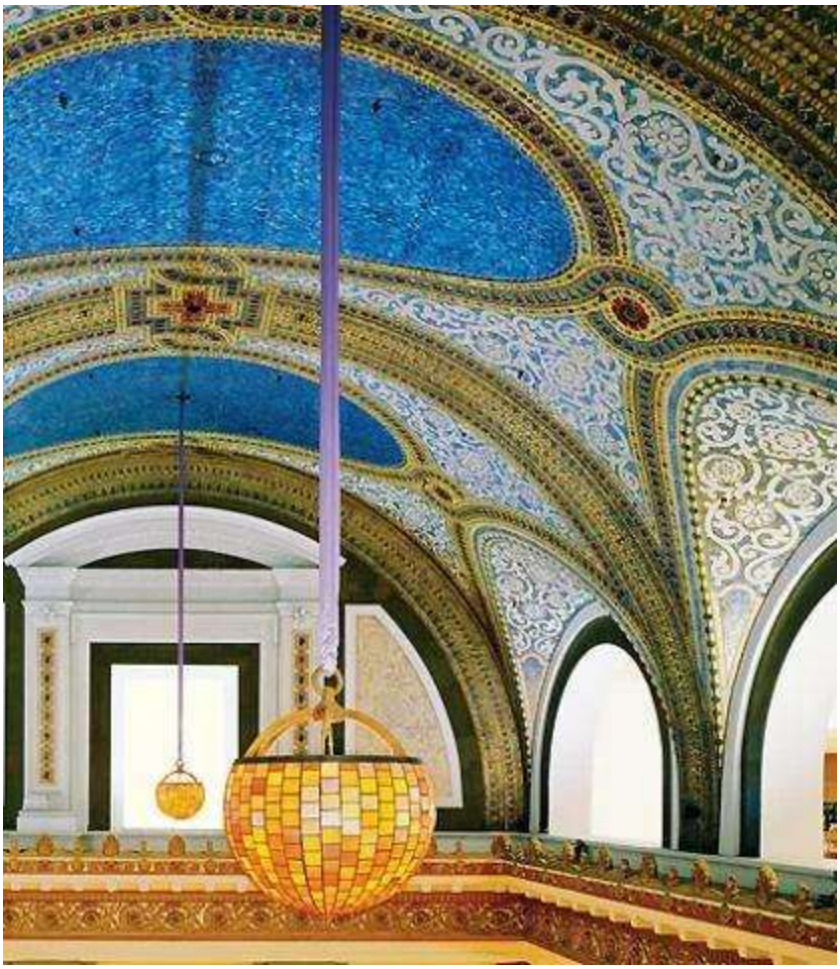
Important improvements included:

- Steam-powered coin presses
- Better rolling mills
- Improved refining equipment
- Much higher production capacity

These technological advances dramatically increased both the speed and quality of American coin production.

**The Third Philadelphia Mint (1901–1969)**







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The third Mint, located on Spring Garden Street, was among the most beautiful government buildings in America.

Highlights included:

- Massive Beaux-Arts architecture
- Marble interiors
- Spectacular Tiffany glass mosaics
- Expanded vaults

- Modern coining equipment

This building could manufacture hundreds of millions of coins annually and even struck coins for foreign governments. Today it survives as part of the Community College of Philadelphia.

**The Current Philadelphia Mint**

The present facility opened in 1969.

At the time it was the largest mint in the world.

Today it manufactures:

- Pennies
- Nickels
- Dimes
- Quarters
- Half Dollars
- Dollar coins
- Commemorative coins
- Congressional Gold Medals
- Military medals
- Annual Uncirculated Mint Sets
- Master dies used by other U.S. Mint facilities

The Philadelphia Mint can produce approximately one million coins every 30 minutes under full production.

**The Famous "P" Mint Mark**

One fascinating aspect of Philadelphia coinage is that for nearly two centuries, most circulating coins struck there carried **no mint mark**.

Because Philadelphia was the original Mint, no identifying letter was considered necessary.

Changes over time include:

- Wartime Jefferson nickels (1942–1945) carried a large "P."

- The Susan B. Anthony dollar received a "P" beginning in 1979.
- Beginning in 1980, nearly all Philadelphia circulating coins received the "P" mint mark.
- In 2017, the Lincoln cent featured a "P" for the first and only time to celebrate the Mint's 225th anniversary.

**Famous Coins Produced in Philadelphia**

Some of the most desirable U.S. coins were struck at Philadelphia, including:

- 1793 Chain Cent
- 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar
- 1804 Draped Bust Dollar (restrikes)
- 1856 Flying Eagle Cent
- 1909 Lincoln Cent
- 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter
- 1916 Mercury Dime
- 1932 Washington Quarter
- 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar
- Numerous commemorative and proof issues during different periods

Many early Philadelphia issues are among the rarest and most valuable coins in American numismatics.

**More Than Coins**

Philadelphia is also responsible for:

- Creating master hubs and dies
- Developing new coin designs
- Producing Congressional Gold Medals
- Military decorations
- Presidential medals
- National medals

- Official Mint medals

The Mint's team of engravers and sculptors develops designs that are ultimately used throughout the United States Mint system.

**Touring the Philadelphia Mint**

Visitors can enjoy free self-guided tours that feature:

- Overhead views of coin production
- Historic coin displays
- Mint machinery exhibits
- The famous Tiffany glass mosaics
- Educational films explaining the minting process

It remains one of Philadelphia's most popular attractions for coin collectors and history enthusiasts.

**Legacy**

The Philadelphia Mint is more than a factory—it is a cornerstone of American history. Since 1792, it has supplied the nation with billions of coins, pioneered advances in minting technology, and preserved the artistic traditions of American coinage. Every U.S. Mint facility traces its origins to the work begun in Philadelphia, making it the true birthplace of the nation's coinage. Whether viewed through the lens of history, engineering, or numismatics, the Philadelphia Mint remains one of the most important institutions in the story of the United States.