

Collector's Journal

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2016 Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument) Quarter – South Carolina

Thirty-Fifth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The fifth and final America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2016 honors Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument) in South Carolina. The coin was also the 35th in the series and completes the seventh year of the collection. Eventually, the series will feature a National Park or other national site in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

Five new coins are issued each year, and the series will continue in 2017 with coins for Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri, Ellis Island National Monument (Statue of Liberty) in New Jersey, and George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Indiana.

Each Quarter is struck for circulation in a limited edition of about 10 weeks at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different coins are identified by a small “P” (Philadelphia) or “D” (Denver) mint mark on the obverse under “In God We Trust.”

Fort Moultrie sits on Sullivan’s Island at the entrance to Charleston Harbor in South Carolina. It is part of Fort Sumter National Monument; Fort Sumter was the site of the opening shots of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, when Confederates fired on the federal fort.

Fort Moultrie’s significance dates to the American Revolutionary era. The fort was originally known as Fort Sullivan, and it was built of palmetto logs – giving South Carolina its “Palmetto State” nickname. It was renamed in honor of William Moultrie, who led the defense of the fort against a British attack in June 1776. Moultrie’s defense prevented the British from taking Charleston.

During an attack from a British warship on June 28, 1776, the fort’s “Liberty” flag was shot away but was retrieved and returned to the ramparts by Sergeant William Jasper. The flag was blue



with a white crescent bearing the word “Liberty” in the upper left corner; the crescent was the symbol of South Carolina’s troops and was worn on their caps. Shortly before the start of the Civil War in 1861, South Carolina adopted an official state flag that was based on the Fort Moultrie flag.

The reverse of the 2016 Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument) Quarter celebrates Jasper’s heroic retrieval of the tattered Fort Moultrie flag in 1776. Jasper is depicted in his military uniform, complete with the cap bearing the same crescent that appears on the flag. Palmetto logs represent the fort, while a British warship is shown in the sea in the background.

Five of the seven designs proposed by the U.S. Mint for this coin featured different images of Jasper retrieving the fort’s flag. One of the two remaining designs highlighted the silver crescent inscribed with “Liberty” and set against a palmetto frond, while the other design showed a cannon used in the defense of the fort with a crescent and two palmetto trees in the background.

The Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument) Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in November 2016.

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