

The National Capitol on United States Currency

By Howard W. Parshall



Two dollar United States Note, Series of 1917, with central vignette of the Capitol.

LARGE SIZE NOTES

1861 - 1929

\$2 United States Note, Series 1917

The National Capitol in Washington, D. C., is the only government building which appears on our currency from the first year of its printing in 1861 until the introduction of the current size notes on July 10, 1929.

It enjoys a *prominent* place on only two types of notes. The most notable is the \$2 United States Note (shown above), issued in six series from 1869 until 1923. The other is the \$1,000 National Bank Note, Series 1875. A large partial view of the Capitol, from a right angle, appears at the extreme right of the note.

On three types of notes (the \$1 Silver Certificates, Series 1899, the \$5,000 United States Note (back), Series 1878, and the \$10,000 Gold Certificate (back), Series 1882, 1888, and 1900, only a small partial view of the Capitol may be seen in the background. The foreground of each type is dominated by a large eagle preparing for flight.

On the \$1 Silver Certificate, Series 1896 (Educational Note), the Capitol is viewed in its natural setting as a part of the city of Washington, D. C.

On the 5th Silver Certificate, Series 1896 (Educational Note), only a partial view of the right wing and the dome may be seen in the background. The foreground is dominated by an allegorical group of female figures.

On the \$5 National Bank Notes, Series 1882, second and third issues, a small close view of the Capitol is placed in an oval at the extreme right on the back of the notes.

On the \$20 National Bank Notes, Series 1902, all issues, a medium size design of the Capitol appears on the back. It is a partial view from the left angle, left of center, partly obscured by a female figure.

The statue of Columbia, located on top of the Capitol dome, appears on the \$5 Demand Notes, Series 1861, and the \$5 Legal Tender Notes, Series 1862 and 1863.

The Capitol appears on the front of three types (United States Notes, Silver Certificates, and National Bank Notes), four denominations (\$1, \$2, \$5, and \$1,000) and eight series (1869, 1874, 1875, 1878, 1880, 1896, 1899, and 1917) of currency.

The Capitol appears on the back of three types (United States Notes, National Bank Notes, and Gold Certificates), five denominations (\$5, \$20, \$100, \$5,000, and \$10,000), and five series (1878, 1882, 1888, 1900, and 1902) of currency.

TYPE	DENOMINATION	SERIES
United States Notes	\$2	1869
United States Notes	\$2	1874
United States Notes	\$2	1875
United States Notes	\$2	1878
United States Notes	\$2	1880
United States Notes	\$2	1917
United States Notes	\$5,000	1878
Silver Certificates	\$1	1896
Silver Certificates	\$5	1896
Silver Certificates	\$1	1899
National Bank Notes	\$1,000	1875
National Bank Notes	\$5	1882 3rd issue
National Bank Notes	\$100	1902 All issues
Gold Certificates	\$10,000	1882
Gold Certificates	\$10,000	1888
Gold Certificates	\$10,000	1900

CURRENT SIZE NOTES

1929 - Present

The Capitol appears on the back of four types (National Bank Notes, Federal Reserve Bank Notes, Federal Reserve Notes, and Gold Certificates), one denomination (\$50), and 13 series (1928, 1928-A, 1929, 1934, 1934-A, 1934-B, 1934-C, 1934-D, 1950, 1950-A, 1950-B, 1950-C,

and 1950-D) of currency. The same view of the Capitol appears on all current size fifty dollar notes.

The public buildings which consistently appear on other denominations of notes are: \$2, Monticello; \$5, Lincoln Memorial; \$10, U. S. Treasury; \$20, The White House; and \$100, Independence Hall. These buildings appear only on the back of our current size notes.

TYPE	DENOMINATION	SERIES
Gold Certificates	\$50	1928
National Bank Notes	\$50	1929
Federal Reserve Bank Notes	\$50	1929
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1928

Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1928-A
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1934
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1934-A
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1934-B
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1934-C
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1934-D
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1950
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1950-A
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1950-B
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1950-C
Federal Reserve Notes	\$50	1950-D

SOURCE: Friedberg, Robert, *Paper Money of the United States*, (Fifth Edition), The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc., New York, 1964.

Circulation Privilege Lost

The national currency circulation privilege of national banks was discontinued August 1, 1935, when bonds eligible as security for that circulation were called in for redemption. The last shipment of currency to national banks to replace notes destroyed by the redemption bureau was made May 31, 1935. The last shipment

of currency to national banks on bonds deposited to secure circulation was made July 10, 1935. The grand total of national bank currency issued to banks from the inception of the act to its discontinuance was \$16,974,264,755.

FORREST W. DANIEL

1. U. S. LARGE NOTES

6. OBSOLETE PAPER MONEY

(Colonials, Continental, Confederate, Broken Bank Notes, Scrip, etc.)

2. U. S. LARGE NATIONAL BANK NOTES

3. U. S. SMALL NOTES

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7. MILITARY CURRENCY

(War, Occupation, Concentration Camp and Emergency Issues)

4. U. S. SMALL FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES

C. J. Affleck
34 Peyton St.
Winchester, Va.

Michael Dorish
308 Grove St.
McKees Rocks, Pa.

Bill Shaw
1764 Blaine Lane
Decatur, Ill. 62521

8. FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

5. FOREIGN CURRENCY

9. MISMATCHED SERIAL NO. NOTES