

■ **July 1, 1882:** The Weather Bureau office moved to its own new building at 7th Avenue West and 8th Street. This two-story building housed the weather office on the main floor and the official in charge of the office lived on the second floor.



*U.S. Weather Bureau Building, Duluth, 1904-1950.
(This building still exists.)*



H.W. Richardson, official in charge of the Weather Bureau, 1898-1931, checks some weather instruments.

- **1939:** First teletype was installed, greatly improving communications.
- **1940:** Weather observations began at the Williamson-Johnson Municipal Airport (renamed Duluth International Airport in 1962). The weather readings were taken by the Civil Aeronautics Authority (later to become the FAA.)
- **March 1, 1950:** Downtown office was moved to the airport. A paid observer continued to take weather readings downtown until October 1, 1950.
- **1970:** The U.S. Weather Bureau was renamed the National Weather Service and became part of the Department of Commerce.
- **1977:** First weather radar was installed.
- **1996:** Powerful Doppler radar installed. Office moved to current location on Miller Trunk Highway.

Prepared by the staff of the National Weather Service's Weather Forecast Office
Duluth, Minnesota
September 2006



National Weather Service Duluth, MN

***Proudly Serving
the Northland
since 1855***



**A History of
Government Weather Service
In Duluth, Minnesota**



National Weather Service
5027 Miller Trunk Hwy
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 729-6697
www.weather.gov/dlh

Weather services in Duluth: A history primer of government weather services in Duluth, MN

Weather observing, record-keeping, and forecasts have been and continue to be important to the Northland.

To support this need, the United States government has maintained a presence in Duluth since 1855:

- **1855:** U.S. Army Signal Corps begins keeping records of Duluth weather and Lake Superior ice conditions.
- **February 1870:** Congress passed Joint Resolution HR 143 establishing a government weather service in the United States as part of the War Department.



- **October 18, 1870:** The first weather office in Duluth was opened, staffed by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The office was located on the second floor of the Edmonds Building, located where Lake Superior Plaza is today. On November 1, 1870, this office became one of the original 24 stations transmitting "the first systemized, synchronous metoric (sic) reports".

Other locations for the weather office and highlights in our history include:

- **July 1, 1882:** Fifth floor of the St. Louis Hotel at the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue West and Superior Street.



*The St. Louis Hotel, downtown Duluth, MN circa 1880. (This building no longer exists.)
Used with permission NEMHC, Duluth, MN.*

- **December 1, 1884:** Top floor of the "Metropolitan Block" at 115-117 W. Superior Street, facing Lake Superior.
- **1890:** The "Organic Act" of 1890 established the U.S. Weather Bureau as a civilian agency under the Department of Agriculture.



Old Post Office building, downtown Duluth, circa 1895. (This building no longer exists.)

- **January 30, 1895:** Moved, along with the U.S. Post Office, to the new government building at the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue West and First Street.