

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Florida

Location	Type	Years	Details
Apalachicola	WBO WSO	1922-1933, 1936-1998	The first Weather Bureau office in the area opened up in July 1922, and operated until June 1933. The office reopened in October 1936. Upper-air observations were conducted from 1942-1948. Much of the time was spent at the Post Office building. Operations were expanded to 24 hours beginning in late 1959, after the WSR-57 radar was commissioned. The office relocated to the airport in the spring of 1975. The office was closed during the late 1990's.
Coral Gables	WSFO HC	1964-1995	The NWS Forecast Office, and the National Hurricane Center, moved from the city of Miami in 1964, to share facilities in Coral Gables. The WSR-57 radar was also relocated, perched on top of the building. In August 1992, the WSR-57 was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew, leading to an earlier-than-planned installation of the WSR-88D. The WSFO/NHC moved to new facilities at Florida International University in 1995.
Crestview	WBO	1940-1948	A joint Weather Bureau/CAA airways station was operated at Crestview from June 1940 until October 1948, at which point the CAA took over full-time operations.
Daytona Beach	WBAS WBO WSO	1944-1995	The Weather Bureau opened an airways station at the municipal airport in February 1944, taking over responsibility from the CAA. A WSR-57 radar was commissioned 5/14/1960. The office was closed in 1995 as part of the NWS modernization.
Fort Myers	WBAS WSO	1944- 1995?	The Weather Bureau took over operations from the CAA at Page Field in March 1944; the CAA resumed operations in April 1946, although one Weather Bureau staff member took care of records and public contacts. Other personnel were brought in during the 1960's, but the station remained in part time operations. The office was moved downtown in March 1976, with the FAA taking over the airport station full-time. The station was closed in the mid 1990's as part of the NWS modernization.
Hilliard	CWSU	? - present	The Jacksonville-area Center Weather Service Unit operates out of the ARTCC in Hilliard.
<u>Jacksonville</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS HC FAWS DFO WSO WFO	1871- present	The Signal Service opened an office in Jacksonville 9/11/1871; the Weather Bureau assumed responsibility 4/1895, with facilities downtown. An airport office opened 10/31/1930 at Imerson Airport. A hurricane forecast office was established in 1935, to cover much of the Atlantic basin between 20°N and 35°N; this was transferred to Miami in 1943, and the district forecast office was relocated to new facilities in Miami and Atlanta. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was established in January 1944. The downtown and airport facilities merged in January 1956. The Weather Bureau moved to Jacksonville International Airport 1/19/1970, and relocated on the airport grounds 1/19/1995. Upper air observations began 1/25/1995.
Jasper	WBAS	1942-1947	An airport station was established in Jasper in March 1942, and was closed at the end of 1947.
Jupiter	SigSvc WBO	1879-1911	This Signal Service office was established in July 1879. It was transferred to the new Weather Bureau in 1890. The office was closed in June 1911, when

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operations were moved to a new office in Miami.

Key West

SigSvc
WBO
WSO
WFO

1871-
present

Key West was among the initial Signal Service offices that began operations on 11/1/1871. It was transferred to the new Weather Bureau in 1890. It operated in several areas within the city before moving to Key West International Airport 7/1/1957. Its first radar, a WSR-57, was installed in early 1960, and was replaced by the WSR-74 in 1973. This latter radar was replaced by a WSR-88D on Boca Chica Key in 1996. The office was originally scheduled to close in 1997 as part of the NWS modernization, but received a reprieve and was upgraded to a full Weather Forecast Office. The office was moved to a new hurricane-resistant building off the airport grounds in 2005.

Lakeland

WBAS
WBO
WSO

1940-1978

A Weather Bureau Office was established at City Hall 1/1/1940. This office was involved in the state horticultural program. A separate airport station opened in 1942, and was closed in March 1948. The city office dropped down to 16-hour per day operations in 1974. The office closed at the end of August 1978, with its operations transferred to the office in Ruskin.

Melbourne

WBAS
WFO

1944-1954,
1989-
present

The Melbourne office was the first one opened as part of the NWS's modernization effort. The office opened 6/1989, with local forecast and warning operations beginning October 1989. River forecasting for Florida was established June 1990. In October 1991, the nation's second WSR-88D was installed at Melbourne.

Miami

WBO
WBAS
DFO
WSCMO
WSFO
WFO
HC
CWSU

1911-1973,
1995-
present

Observations in the area began as early as 1839, at old Ft. Dallas. The Weather Bureau operations began in June 1911 after the Jupiter office was relocated. A separate WB Airport Station (WBAS) opened 9/4/1929 at Miami Municipal Airport, and moved to what is now Miami International Airport 7/31/1942. Hurricane forecasting first began in 1943, when the regional hurricane center was moved from Jacksonville, and the downtown Weather Bureau office was combined with the new National Hurricane Center July 1, 1958. In 1964, the collective WB/NHC operation moved to the University of Miami in Coral Gables. The NHC was split into a separate operation in 1967, then shared space with the NWS forecast office again beginning in 1979 at new facilities in Coral Gables. The airport office was contracted out in 1973. New technology at the Miami facility included the first WSR-3 during World War II, and the WSR-57 in 1959 (later relocated to Coral Gables). In 1995, a new facility was constructed at Florida International University, and the NHC and the WSFO were moved to this location. A Center Weather Service Unit also operates out of the ARTCC.

From the late 1950's through about 1975, the Miami/NHC offices also supported spacecraft recovery support operations during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions. Upon the end of the Apollo program, these were transferred to operate from Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Orlando

WBAS
WBO
WSO

1944-1996

The Weather Bureau took over weather operations at the municipal airport from the CAA in February 1944. The office was relocated to the site of the former McCoy AFB (currently Orlando International Airport) in February 1974, with the FAA taking over responsibility at Herndon Airport (now Orlando Executive Airport). Operations were reduced to one shift a day by 1990. The office was closed in 1996, and its functions merged with the Melbourne office.

Pensacola

SigSvc

1879-1969,

The Signal Service opened an office in Pensacola at the Pfeiffer Building in

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WBO 1974-
WBAS 1996?
RDO
WSO

October 1879, moving to the Custom House in 1888. The Weather Bureau took over in 1893. It remained in town until October 1963, at which point it moved to the airport; the FAA took surface observations while the Weather Bureau handled climatology reports. The office closed at the end of April 1969. In April 1974, the office was reopened at the Naval Air Station to operate the WSR-57 radar, which was taken over from the Navy.

Ruskin

WSO 1975-
WFO present

The Tampa Weather Service Office moved to Ruskin in 1975, and absorbed the functions of the recently closed Lakeland office in 1978. The present office was built in 1994-95, and opened when the WSR-88D radar replaced the old system. The office was upgraded to a Weather Forecast Office in 1999.

Sand Key

WBO 1903-1909,
1912-1925

The Sand Key office was established in June 1903, and was destroyed by a hurricane 10/11/1909. A new office was built and opened in 1912, suffering more hurricane damage in September 1919.

Tallahassee

WBAS 1940-
WBO present
WSO
WFO

The Weather Bureau established an airways station at the old Mabry Field in March 1940, relocating to the new Tallahassee Municipal Airport in 1961. A WSR-88D radar was commissioned in 1995, and upper-air observations were moved here from Apalachicola, when the office was upgraded as part of the NWS modernization. Operations were moved to a new facility on the Florida State University campus in March 2002.

Tampa

WBO 1890-1975
WBAS
RDO
WSO

The Weather Bureau established its Tampa office in March 1890, having been moved from Cedar Key. As with many Weather Bureau offices, separate facilities for downtown and airport operations were present for a time, with the airport station established in 1938; the two were consolidated at the airport in January 1941. The first airport station was at Peter Knight Field, then relocated to Drew Field (present Tampa International Airport) in 1946. Early radar operations began in 1951 with an APS2E radar, which was replaced by the WSR-1 in 1956 and the WSR-57 in 1960. The office and radar were moved to Ruskin in 1975.

Titusville

SigSvc 1888-1933
WBO 1958-1975
WSO

A Signal Service office opened in 1888, and was transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1891. Operations were transferred to the CAA in 1933. In 1958, a new office was established at Cape Canaveral as part of the Project Mercury Weather Support Group, and provided support for pre-launch preparations, launch and recovery operations. Support for recovery operations was transferred to a new office in Houston, Texas, during the Gemini and Apollo missions. Upon the conclusion of the Apollo missions, forecast operations were transferred to the Air Force.

West Palm Beach

WBO 1944-1993
WBAS
WSO

The Weather Bureau opened a part-time office at Morrison Field (now Palm Beach International Airport) in October 1944, and became a full-time station in November 1945. Upper-air observations were added in 1977, after the function was moved from the Miami office. A WSR-74S local warning radar was commissioned 12/17/1980; this became a network radar in 1992 after the WSR-57 in Miami was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. The office was closed after its functions were transferred to the Miami office.
