

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Iowa

Location	Type	Years	Details
Burlington	WBO WBAS	1941-1964	The Weather Bureau began operations in Burlington in December 1941, after moving from Keokuk. Operations were transferred to the FAA as 1965 began, and the office became a Flight Service Station.
Charles City	WBO	1904-1953	The Weather Bureau opened an office in November 1904. It was downgraded to a special meteorological office in February 1943, then completely closed in 1953.
<u>Davenport</u>	SigSvc WBO WFO	1871-1953, 1994-present	The Signal Service opened a facility in Davenport 5/24/1871. Between them and the Weather Bureau, which took over in 1891, several locations around downtown Davenport housed the weather office. The Davenport facility closed at the end of February 1953, when operations were transferred to the already-operating Moline facility. In September 1994, a new office for the Quad Cities opened at the Davenport airport, with the Moline office closed at the end of June 1995. The office saw the WSR-88D installed 11/2/1994, and upper air observations began 1/16/1995. Warning responsibility from Moline was officially assumed 2/20/1995. The office has since obtained additional forecast and warning responsibility.
<u>Des Moines</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSFO	1890-1995	The Weather Bureau opened an office downtown, in conjunction with the Iowa Weather Service. Downtown operations continued until October 1954. A second office was established at the Des Moines airport in February 1928, and operated until 1933. A new airport office started up in December 1938, and the city office relocated here in 1954. The full office (forecasts and observations) remained here until August 1993, when the forecast functions were moved to the new Johnston office. A skeleton staff remained at the Des Moines office to take observations until October 1995.
Dubuque	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1873-1981, 1982-1995	The Signal Service opened an office in downtown Dubuque in July 1873, and was taken over by the Weather Bureau in July 1891. The office moved to the Dubuque Municipal Airport in 1951. The office was closed 9/1981 due to a staffing shortage, then reopened a year later on a part-time basis. The office permanently closed 10/15/1995, after its warning functions were transferred to the new Quad Cities NWS office.
Iowa Falls	WBO	1937-1941	
<u>Johnston</u>	WFO	1993-present	The NWS Forecast Office moved here from the Des Moines airport in August 1993. See the Des Moines entry for more details.
Keokuk	SigSvc WBO RDO	1871-1948	The Signal Service established an office in Keokuk in July 1871 at the State Bank building, moving to the Federal Building in 1889. The Weather Bureau took over in the early 1890's. It was downgraded to a special meteorological office at the end of 1941, after its functions were moved to a new office in Burlington, and closed in 1948.
Sioux City	WBO WBAS WSO	1889-1996	Although the Signal Service didn't open their station until 1889, observations in the area can be traced as far back as 1857. The Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The first official station was at the Chamber of Commerce building, moving to the public library in 1892 and the Federal Building by 1897. The office moved to the Post Office at the end of 1933. An Airways Station was established in 1940, and the city office was consolidated at this site in October 1941. The office was closed in June 1996 and its functions transferred to Sioux

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Waterloo	WBAS WSO WSCMO	1955-1997	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was established in October 1955 at the municipal airport. A WSR-74C radar was commissioned at the site 11/19/1976. The office was closed in 1996, and the radar decommissioned, with a contract observatory in place for another year.
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