

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Michigan

Location	Type	Years	Details
Alpena	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO	1872-1999	A Signal Service station was established in September 1872, with the Weather Bureau taking over in 1891. The office was relocated to Phelps Collins Field in August 1959, operating part-time with an AMOS station also present. The AMOS was decommissioned in 1975. A WSR-74C radar was commissioned 6/8/1977, and the office began full-time operations again. Functions of this office were transferred to the new Gaylord office in 1995, and the site began contract operations, which continued until early 1999.
Ann Arbor	WSFO	1978-1992	The Detroit forecast office relocated to the Federal Building in Ann Arbor from the Wayne County Airport on 1/15/1978. It remained at this location until 1992, when it moved to new facilities in White Lake.
<u>Detroit</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS DFO FAWS WBFO WSFO WSO WSCMO	1870-1999	<p>The Signal Service's Detroit office opened on November 1, 1870, along with 23 other locations as synchronized weather observations began. Operations transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1890. Several downtown locations were utilized for the operations.</p> <p>A Weather Bureau Airways Station began operations at Ford Field in 1928, and was moved to Wayne County Airport (current Detroit Metro Airport) in 1930. This office was relocated to the Willow Run Airport in the summer of 1942. However, the WBAS was re-established at Wayne County Airport in October 1946. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was established in early 1944. A WSR-3 radar was commissioned 5/1/1957, replaced by a WSR-57 on 9/12/1961 and a WSR-74S on 3/9/1983. The forecast office was moved to this location, then relocated to Ann Arbor in January 1978. The office was turned into a contract meteorological observatory around 1995, with the contract turned over to the FAA around 1999.</p> <p>A WBAS was also established at Detroit City Airport in 1933. Official observations were transferred to this airport in 1934, while forecasts remained downtown until approximately 1940. However, a downtown office remained in place until 11/1/1957, when functions were moved to the City Airport office.</p> <p>A WBAS also established at Willow Run Airport in 1942, after relocating from Wayne County Airport. The CAA operated the station for the second half of 1946. The office remained in place until the end of September 1968.</p>
Escanaba	SigSvc WBO	1871-1888, 1898-1963	Signal Service operations began in Escanaba in May 1871, continuing through March 1888. Volunteer observers continued the weather record until the Weather Bureau opened an office in November 1898. Operations were reduced to a single employee in 1953, then the office was closed in 1963.
Flint	WBAS WBO WSO	1956-1995	The Weather Bureau took over operations at Bishop Airport in January 1956, from the CAA. Upper-air observations began in September of that year. A WSR-3 radar was added 11/25/1957, and was decommissioned 1/15/1978. The office was closed in June 1995, with functions transferred to the White Lake (Detroit) office.
Gaylord	WFO	1995-present	A Weather Forecast Office was opened in Gaylord in September 1995, merging operations of NWS offices at Sault Ste. Marie, Muskegon, and Houghton Lake.

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Grand Haven	WBO	1892-1933	
Grand Rapids	WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1903-present	The Weather Bureau established an office in the Michigan Trust Building on 7/1/1903. It moved to the post office at the end of 1910, then to the National Bank Building 3/29/1930. Meanwhile, an airport office was established at the Kent County Airport 9/1/1934; this office merged with the city office on 1/26/1956. The airport office relocated 11/24/1963, and again 8/1/1995.
Houghton Lake	WBAS WSO WSCMO	1964-2001	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was opened at the Roscommon County Airport in April 1964. A WSR-74C radar was commissioned on 2/1/1977. Office operations came under contract in April 1996, with main duties transferred to the new Gaylord office. The contract office was closed in 2001.
Lansing	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1887-1891, 1895-1954, 1959-1996	The Signal Service opened an office in Lansing in January 1887 at the Old State Building. The office remained in place until July 1891. However, the Weather Bureau did not take over until February 1895, at the old Post Office building. In October 1940, a new office was established at the Capitol City Airport; the two offices were consolidated at the airport in July 1948. The office operated part-time at the airport until being closed in July 1954. A new WBAS was opened in May 1959, operating full-time. This office was closed in 1996 after ASOS commissioning.
Ludington	WBO	1912-1938	
Manistee	WBO	1891-1893	
<u>Marquette</u>	SigSvc WBO WSO WFO	1870-present	The Marquette office was established among the initial Signal Service offices in 1870, and was transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1891. It operated at various locations downtown through the late 1970's, including its longest stint at the Post Office building from 1937-1979. At that point, the office was moved to the Marquette County Airport. A new facility was constructed nearby in the mid 1990's, and forecast responsibilities and staffing were increased.
Muskegon	WBAS WSO	1938-1996	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was opened at the Muskegon County Airport in February 1938. A WSR-3 radar was commissioned 5/9/1957, and was replaced by a WSR-74C commissioned on 3/25/1976. The office functions were transferred to the Grand Rapids office in 1995, and the Muskegon office was closed in 1996 after the radar was decommissioned.
Port Huron	WBO	1893-1933	
Saginaw	WBO	1912-1925	The Weather Bureau opened an office in Saginaw at the Merrill Building. This moved to the Arthur Hill Trade School in 1913, and the Miller Building in 1919. The office was closed in 1925.
Sault Ste. Marie	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO	1888-1999	The Signal Service established an office at the First National Bank building in January 1888, with the new Weather Bureau taking over in July 1891. It moved operations to the Evening News Building in 1896, before moving into its own facilities in 1899. A separate office was established at the municipal airport in July 1939, with upper-air observations beginning at that time. The two offices were consolidated at the airport in July 1941. The office was moved just off the airport grounds in October 1982, when Sanderson Field was closed. The office was closed in 1997, with functions moved to the new

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Michigan

Gaylord office; a contract station remained in place through May 1999.

White Lake

WFO

1992-present

The Detroit area forecast office was moved here from Ann Arbor in 1992. The upper-air program relocated here from Flint in November 1994.
