

# Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Nebraska

Location	Type	Years	Details
<b>Alliance</b>	WSMO	1977-1997	A Weather Service Meteorological Observatory was established in June 1977, to operate the WSR-74S network radar. The office was closed in 1997 after the radar was decommissioned.
<b>Drexel</b>	WBO	1915-1926	Drexel was one of the Weather Bureau sites that conducted upper-air observations using kites. This was discontinued in the mid 1920's, when airplanes began to be used to collect the data.
<b><u>Grand Island</u></b>	WBO WSO	1929-1995	The first Weather Bureau office in Grand Island was established at Grand Island Central Airport 1/1/1929. The office was scheduled to be closed 6/11/1953, but received a reprieve approximately 30 minutes before its records were scheduled to be retrieved. The office, which had moved to the Municipal Airport in 1938, was relocated to Grand Island/Hall County Airport in 1970. The office was closed at the beginning of 1995, when operations were moved to a new facility in Hastings.
<b><u>Hastings</u></b>	WSO WFO	1993-present	The Hastings office opened in 1993, with dual operations continuing with the nearby Grand Island office. The two were consolidated at the beginning of 1995.
<b>Lincoln</b>	WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO	1894-1996	The initial Weather Bureau station was opened on the University of Nebraska campus in 1894, although observations on the campus date back to 1878. An airport station was established in October 1937, operating until 1942; the CAA then assumed responsibility, before sharing duties with the WBAS beginning in February 1949. Separate offices were maintained through the early 1970's, then consolidated at the airport. Contract operations began in 1995 after the main office closed as part of the NWS modernization, and ran for approximately a year.
<b>Norfolk</b>	WBO WBAS RDO WSO WSCMO	1946-1999	The Weather Bureau opened a city office and River District Office in August 1945, then relocated them to the airport in October 1946. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned 7/27/1947; this was replaced with a WSR-74C 5/14/1976. The office was contracted out in June 1996, after main operations were transferred to the Omaha/Valley office; this contract ended in January 1999.
<b><u>North Omaha</u></b>	WBAS WSFO	1955-1994	The North Omaha WB office opened in 1955, with the installation of the WSR-1 radar. A full NWS forecast office was established in 1972. The Eppley Airport office merged at North Omaha in 1974. The radar was replaced with a more modern WSR-74C in 1977. The office closed in 1994, when operations moved to the modernized NWS office in Valley.
<b>North Platte</b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1905-present	The Weather Bureau established its North Platte office 12/1/1905, although the Signal Service had been taking observations since September 1874. A Weather Bureau Airport Station was established at Lee Bird Field in 1940. First located in an airport hangar, it moved to the airport administration building 1/15/1952. It remained there until new facilities were completed in the summer of 1995.
<b><u>Omaha</u></b>	WBO WB/UA WSFO	1891-1974	The Weather Bureau established an Omaha office in 1891, although the Army Signal Service had been taking observations since 1870. Upper air observations began in 1931, using airplanes; these were replaced by balloons in 1938. A new office was established at Eppley Airport in 1941. The Eppley office closed in 1974, with operations consolidated at the North Omaha facility.

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<b>Scottsbluff</b>	WBAS WBO WSO WSCMO	1949-1999	A Weather Bureau office was established at the Scottsbluff Municipal Airport in 1949, taking over surface observations from the CAA in May 1950. A WSR-3 radar was installed at the office in the summer of 1969, and decommissioned in 1978 after a network radar was installed at Alliance. The office was closed in March 1995 as part of the modernization of the NWS, replaced by a contract meteorological observatory, which was closed in June 1999.
<b>Valentine</b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO	1885-1997	The Signal Service operated an office in Valentine from 1885 to 1891, with a brief interruption in October 1888 after it was destroyed in a fire. The Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The office moved to the municipal airport in 1955 and operated as a WBAS. The station generally operated on a part-time basis, and closed in 1995; it was replaced by a contract observatory for a couple years.
<b><u>Valley</u></b>	WFO	1994-present	The Valley office replaced the North Omaha facility in 1994. It assumed upper air responsibility, had a WSR-88D installed, and the forecast functions were transferred to Valley. As modernization progressed, the Valley forecast and warning coverage areas was adjusted.

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