

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Pennsylvania

Location	Type	Years	Details
Allentown	WBO WBAS RDO WSO	1944-1995	A Weather Bureau office was established at the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport (current Lehigh Valley International Airport) in December 1943, remaining there until it was closed during the NWS modernization.
Altoona	WBAS	1944-1947	The Weather Bureau and CAA jointly operated the weather station at Blair County Airport from 1944-1947.
Curwensville	WBO	1942-1952	The Weather Bureau established a station northwest of Curwensville in November 1942. The station was reduced to 16 hour per day operations in January 1952, then was completely closed in April of that year.
Erie	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1873-1953, 1955-2000?	The Signal Service established an office in Erie in May 1873, located at the Rindernecht Building. It was at the Federal Building when the Weather Bureau took over. An airport station was jointly operated with the CAA at the Port Erie Airport from 1943-1947, when the CAA took over full responsibility again. The city office was closed in September 1953. Another joint operation began at the airport in October 1955, with the Weather Bureau beginning full-time operations in February 1960. A WSR-74C radar was commissioned 8/30/1977. By the mid 1990's, the office was minimally staffed primarily to operate the radar, and was eventually closed.
Harrisburg	SigSvc WBO WBAS RDO WSO RFC	1888-1993	A Signal Survey office was opened in July 1888 at the U.S. Post Office, and transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1891. An office at the Harrisburg State Airport was opened in January 1939, and the city office moved to the Education Building later that year. River forecasting functions began at the city office in 1945. In 1968, the city office was relocated to the Federal Building, and the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center was co-located. The airport functions were transferred to the FAA in 1971, and the NWS operations were consolidated again at the city office. A WSR-74C radar was commissioned at the Federal Building 6/28/1977. The functions of the WSO and RFC were moved to a new facility in State College in 1993, and the Harrisburg office was closed.
Kylertown	WBAS	1935-1942	
Mercer	WBAS	1943-1948	The Weather Bureau took over operations of the Mercer Airport station from the CAA in November 1943, operating through 1948.
Park Place	WBO	1943-1955	The Park Place office (located 5 miles northwest of Mahanoy City) was established in January 1943, taking over operations from the CAA. An AMOS station was activated in April 1954, and the station went unattended after 8/31/1955.
Philadelphia	SigSvc WBO WBAS RDO WBMO WBFO WSO WSFO WSMO	1870-1999?	A Signal Service office opened in December 1870 at the Philadelphia Board of Trade building, and moved to the Chamber of Commerce Building the next fall. The office was located at the Post Office Building when the Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The office moved to the new Custom House Building in 1934. It was closed and relocated to the International Airport at the end of 1954. An airport station was established at the Southwest Airport (current Philadelphia International Airport) in June 1940, and was closed for much of the second half of 1945. The city office was merged with the airport operations at the end of 1954. Rawinsonde observations began in January 1955, continuing through

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WSCMO

early November 1957. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned 11/20/1959. A separate office was opened in 1969 for the radar and surface observations, with forecast operations beginning at this time. The observations were transferred to contract meteorological observatory status in 1980. The forecast operations were relocated to a new office in Mount Holly, NJ, in August 1993.

Two other airport stations were established in June 1945, one at the North Philadelphia Airport, and the other at the Northeast Airport. Both closed at the end of the year.

Pittsburgh

SigSvc
WBO
WBAS
DFO
FAWS
RDO
RFC
WBMO
WBFO
WSO
WSMO
WSFO
WSCMO
WFO

1870-
present

Pittsburgh was included in the Signal Corps' original weather station network in 1870, operating in several locations downtown. The Weather Bureau took over on 7/1/1891, and moved the office to the federal courthouse the next year. It operated in a few more locations downtown afterward. An airport station was established in January 1931 at Bettis Airport, and moved to the Allegheny County Airport in 1932. Official observations were transferred to this location from the city office in 1935. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was added in 1944. The airport station was relocated to the Greater Pittsburgh Airport in 1952, and began forecast operations. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned at this airport, and decommissioned 10/4/1963. Upper-air observations began in 1943, and were moved to a separate facility near Coraopolis in 1963, where a WSR-57 was commissioned 8/1/1966. The city office was moved to the Federal Building in 1965. A new facility near the upper-air site was built in 1979 to house the forecast operations, and surface observations at the airport continued as a contract meteorological observatory.

The [Upper Ohio River Forecast Unit](#) was established at the city office in 1962, including the Ohio River and tributaries above Dam 13 (McMechen, WV). It was upgraded to a full River Forecast Center in 1967, and remained operational until 1969. A mini-RFC was re-established in 1979 in response to major flood events (Hurricane Agnes in 1972, and the Johnstown Flood in 1977), and remained operational until the late 1980's.

Reading

WBO 1912-1969

The Weather Bureau opened its Reading office in December 1912, at the courthouse. It was moved to the post office building in February 1940. By 1956, the station operated during business hours on weekdays and Saturday mornings. The office was closed in May 1969.

Scranton

WBO 1900-1955

The first Weather Bureau office in the area opened at the courthouse building in Scranton in August 1900, moving to the new courthouse in 1931. The office was moved to the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Airport southwest of town in 1955.

Shippingport

WBO 1955-1961

A Weather Bureau Office opened in Shippingport in April 1955, supported by the Atomic Energy Commission. It operated one shift a day, and was closed in June 1961.

[State College](#)

WFO
RFC 1993-
present

The State College office was established to replace former offices at Harrisburg and Williamsport. The office opened 10/1/1993, and assumed responsibility for public forecasts in October 1998. The facility also houses the Mid-Atlantic River Forecast Center, which relocated from Harrisburg.

Wilkes-Barre

WBAS 1945-1947,
WSO 1955-1994

A Weather Bureau Airport Station was opened at the Wyoming Valley Airport in 1945, as a joint operation with the CAA. The CAA took over full operations in February 1947. Airport operations were later moved to the new Wilkes-Barre Scranton Airport, and the Scranton office was relocated to this airport on 4/18/1955. The office was closed in 1994.

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Williamsport	WBAS WBO WSO	1944-1995	A joint Weather Bureau-CAA operation was established in 1944 at the Williamsport Airport, then was transferred to full Weather Bureau control in August 1948. The station began 16 hour per day operations by 1969, but resumed full-time operations in March 1987. The office was closed in 1995, with its functions transferred to the new State College office.
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Woodward	WBO	1943-1946	
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