

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Texas

Location	Type	Years	Details
Abilene	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1885-1996	A Signal Service office was established in September 1885, and transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1891. A WBAS was established in July 1935 at the old municipal airport, and the city office operations were consolidated there in April 1944. The office relocated to the new airport 1/2 mile south in December 1953. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned 2/8/1954, and replaced by a WSR-3 on 3/25/1972 and a WSR-74C on 8/27/1977. A mobile upper-air station operated at the airport from February-May each year beginning in 1963, as part of a severe weather research project, and full-time observations began in the early 1970's. The office closed in 1996 during the NWS modernization.
Alvin	WSO	1970-1990	The Alvin office opened in 1970, with the relocation of the Houston WB city office. It was responsible for warnings and local forecasts. In October 1990, the office moved to League City, and consolidated with the Galveston NWS office.
<u>Amarillo</u>	WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1892-present	The Weather Bureau opened an office at Amarillo July 1, 1892, with observations in town. From 1932-1935, a second office was located at the area airport; these were consolidated at the airport on April 1, 1941. In 1961, one of the first NWS network radars, the WSR-57, was commissioned. Upper air observations began in 1956. Other milestones include one of the early Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS) commissionings, in 1992, and the nation's second WSR-88D (Doppler) radar commissioning, in 1994.
<u>Austin</u>	WBO WSO	1926-1995	The Weather Bureau opened an office at the Littlefield Building in October 1926, but observations for the Austin area date back to the 1850's. The WBO also spent time at the Federal Court Building (10/1936-2/1942). The office relocated to Mueller Airport in August 1942. New equipment included the WSR-74C radar in the late 1970's, the Automation of Field Operations and Services (AFOS) computers in the early 1980's, and the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) in the mid 1990's. The office consolidated with 3 other stations to the new office at New Braunfels in 1995.
Beaumont	WBO WSO	1917-1995	A Weather Bureau office opened at the downtown post office 2/1/1917, although observations in the area date to the end of 1901. The office moved to the Beaumont Municipal Airport 5/29/1940, then relocated to the Jefferson County Airport (current Southeast Texas Regional Airport) in Nederland 3/8/1944. The office was closed in August 1995, its functions assumed by the Lake Charles, LA office.
Big Spring	WBO WBAS	1940-1953	An airport office was established at the municipal airport in March 1940, and began taking upper-air observations in 1943. The office closed in November 1953, and its functions transferred to the Midland office.
Brownsville	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1877-present	The Weather Bureau took over observations from the military in October 1916. Initially, the observations were taken at a private residence, then in various downtown locations into April 1943. An office opened at the Brownsville airport 8/2/38. The city office consolidated at the airport office 4/1/42, and completely closed the next year. Upper air observations began at Brownsville in June 1943, and the Weather Bureau installed one of the new WSR-57 model radars in 1961. The 1960's also saw the start of weather radio in Brownsville. Surface observations were automated in May 1994, and the old radar was replaced by the WSR-88D Doppler radar in 1995.

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Childress	WBAS	1946-1948	A Weather Bureau Airport Station operated at the Childress AAF from December 1946 to June 1948, when operations were transferred to the CAA.
<u>Corpus Christi</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1887-present	The Army Signal Service opened a station at Corpus Christi at the start of February 1887, at the French Building. By 1901, the office was under Weather Bureau authority, and moved to the Hatch and Robertson Building. It moved to the City National Bank Building 11/1/1908, and then to the Federal Building 1/1/1921. A new office was established at Cliff Maus Field 1/28/1938. This office merged with the old city Weather Bureau office 10/15/1942, but an Emergency Hurricane Office remained downtown until 1946. The WB moved to new facilities 8/8/1965, and again 11/7/1995. Technology over the years included the initiation of NOAA Weather Radio in June 1967, the WSR-74C radar 2/1/1976; upper air observations 11/5/1989, and the WSR-88D in 1995.
Dallas	WBO WB/UA	1913-1973	The Weather Bureau opened an office in downtown Dallas 10/15/1913, at the Cotton Exchange Building. A separate office was established at Love Field 7/16/1930, and the downtown office was absorbed into the airport office 9/1/1940. At Love Field, upper air observations began 7/1/1931, using airplanes; this function relocated to Oklahoma City 6/30/1934. Forecast functions at the 4 WB offices (Dallas downtown and Love Field, Fort Worth downtown and Meacham Field) were transferred to the Meacham office 9/1/1937. The National Weather Service combined its Love Field and Meacham Field operations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport as 1974 began.
<u>Del Rio</u>	WBO WSO	1951-1995	The Weather Bureau opened an office at the Val Verde County Airport in 1951, but weather records for the area date to 1905. The office remained there until September 1957, when it moved to the Post Office downtown. In February 1963, it moved back to the airport (now Del Rio International Airport). The office closed in 1995, when warning and forecast functions transferred to New Braunfels.
<u>El Paso</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1877-1995	The Signal Service opened an office 11/6/1877 downtown, and was later taken over by the Weather Bureau. The El Paso office operated in 9 different locations through 1942, when it consolidated with the airport facility (opened 11/1931). Upper-air observations began in July 1939. Operations in El Paso itself ended 9/6/1995 when functions were moved to nearby Santa Teresa.
Fort Worth	WBO FAWS DFO RDO WSFO WSMO WFO CWSU HQ RFC	1898-present	The Fort Worth Weather Bureau opened for business 9/1/1898 downtown, and remained there through 1939. In January 1940, this office was consolidated with another office at Meacham Field. Upper air observations were also performed at Meacham Field from March 1946 through October 1948, when they were transferred to Carswell AFB. The Weather Bureau resumed these observations (at Carswell) in December 1955, continuing until the function was transferred to Stephenville in October 1973. Meanwhile, a WSR-1 radar was installed April 21, 1954, and was replaced by the newer WSR-57 April 5, 1961. The Fort Worth office assumed public forecasting functions for the northern half of Texas in the summer of 1960 (previously done by the New Orleans office). Much of the Weather Bureau operations moved to the Federal Building downtown in the summer of 1966, in facilities also housing the West Gulf River Forecast Center and the Southern Region Headquarters. However, observing functions remained at the airport until January 1, 1974, when they were transferred to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The forecast office moved to new quarters on the north side of Fort Worth in November 1993, and the office again resumed upper air observations.

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Several more specialized facilities have operated in Fort Worth. A Flight Advisory Weather Service (FAWS) office, a forerunner to the current Center Weather Service Unit, operated at the Fort Worth Air Traffic Control Center from 1944 through 1952. An office supported the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at the Convair Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Project in the 1950's. A regional headquarters office was housed in the Federal Building downtown.

The [West Gulf River Forecast Center](#) (originally known as the Fort Worth RFC) was officially established in October 1961. Initial forecast responsibility began in December 1962. Some of its territory was later transferred to the present Arkansas Basin RFC in Tulsa. It was the first RFC to have an on-site computer, installed in April 1962. It was relocated to the Federal Building downtown in 1966, which also housed the forecast office and the regional headquarters. Operations moved to a new facility on the north side of Fort Worth in November 1993.

[Galveston](#) SigSvc 1871-1995 One of the Signal Service's first offices opened in Galveston 4/19/1871. It was located in various locations until June 1898, when it moved to the Levy Building. After the great hurricane of September 1900, the office moved to the Trust Building, then to the post office building in 1946. One of the Weather Bureau's new WSR-57 radars was installed there in 1960. The office closed in October 1995, after commissioning of the League City WSR-88D.

Groesbeck WB/UA 1919-1931 The Weather Bureau took upper air observations via kite at 5 stations, including Groesbeck. This function was transferred to Dallas' Love Field office in July 1931, and switched to airplanes instead of kites.

[Hondo](#) WSMO 1971-1995 The Hondo office opened in 1971 as a Weather Service Meteorological Observatory (WSMO), with the installation of the last WSR-57 network radar. The office closed in 1995, when the WSR-88D network made its operations obsolete.

[Houston](#) SigSvc 1881-present After operations by the Signal Service since 1881, the Weather Bureau opened an office in downtown Houston 9/16/1909. This office was relocated twice, then split into two in 1970. The forecast and warning office moved to Alvin, while the observation function moved to the Houston Intercontinental Airport. In October 1990, the forecast function was moved to the League City office.

A separate office, the [Spaceflight Meteorology Group](#), operates at the Johnson Space Center. This office was established in 1962 with the opening of the new Mission Control Center, and provided forecast support for spacecraft recovery during the Gemini and Apollo missions. Upon closing of the Apollo era, the SMG mission was changed to provide launch and landing forecasts during the Space Shuttle program. Staffing was reduced following the ending of the Space Shuttle program, with some support still being provided for other aspects of the NASA mission.

A Center Weather Service Unit also operates out of the ARTCC.

Laredo WBO 1943-1968 The first Weather Bureau office was established in May 1943 at the Franklin Building downtown. It was relocated to the Laredo Municipal Airport in October 1943, then to a new office on the airport (aka Laredo AFB) in June 1947. Observational duties were transferred to the Air Force in October 1965, and the Weather Bureau moved to the Federal Building downtown, operating 4 to 7 hour shifts from Mondays through Saturdays. The office was closed

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permanently in February 1969.

League City	WSO WFO	1990-present	The League City office opened in October 1990, merging the functions of the Houston (Alvin) and Galveston offices. It moved across the street in April 2005, into a new facility shared with the Galveston County Emergency Management Agency (the first such co-location in the nation).
Longview	WSMO	1975-1996	A Weather Service Meteorological Observatory was established in April 1975, to take upper-air observations. A WSR-74S radar was commissioned 6/13/1985. The upper-air function was transferred to the Shreveport, LA office in February 1995, and the office was closed in 1996 after the radar was decommissioned.
Lubbock	WBO WSFO WFO	1946-present	The first Weather Bureau office opened at the Lubbock airport in 1946, and has operated in several locations on the airport grounds. In 1993, the office moved to the Science Spectrum building.
Midland	WBAS WSO WFO	1953-present	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was established at the Midland Air Terminal (current Midland International Airport) in November 1953, taking over operations from the CAA. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned 7/16/1954, and upper-air observations began in April 1960. The radar was replaced by a WSR-57 model on 6/15/1972, when the office was moved to a new building. A new facility was built in 1994, as functions were being expanded as part of the NWS modernization.
Mineola	WBO	1945-1946	
New Braunfels	WSFO WFO	1994-present	The New Braunfels (Austin/San Antonio) office opened in 1994, with the relocation of the San Antonio office. Functions from the Austin, Del Rio, and Hondo offices were transferred to this office in 1995.
Palestine	SigSvc WBO	1881-1953	The Signal Service opened a Palestine office in 1881 at the I&GN Railroad Building. The station was at the Ash Building when the Weather Bureau took over, and later moved to the Wright Building, City Hall, and the Federal Building. The office was minimally staffed in the 1940's, and closed in 1953.
Port Arthur	WBO WBAS WSO	1917-1996	An office was established at the Custom House in Port Arthur in February 1917. A separate airport station was opened at the Jefferson County Airport in March 1944, and the city office was consolidated here in March 1953. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned on 7/15/1955. The station was reduced to 16 hour per day operations in 1967, resuming full operations in September 1980. The office closed in 1996.
Rio Grande	SigSvc WBO	1877-1891	
San Angelo	WBO WSO WFO	1947-present	The Weather Bureau office opened at Mathis Field on Halloween, 1947. The first radar in the area was installed June 23, 1954. WB facilities were relocated in July 1965. A WSR-74C was installed in October 1977. New NWS facilities were opened in February 1996, including expanded operations and a WSR-88D radar.
San Antonio	SigSvc WBO WBAS	1875-1994	The Army Signal Service had a San Antonio office beginning in the 1870's, with functions taken over by the new Weather Bureau in July 1891. The station was in downtown San Antonio until January 1941, when it merged with the

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	FAWS WBFO WSFO		airport station at Stinson Field. The office then moved to the new San Antonio Municipal Airport in July 1942. It remained there until May 1972, when it moved to the North Crown Building. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was added in 1944. Upper-air observations were transferred to the Victoria office in July 1966. In 1994, the office moved to New Braunfels.
Stephenville	WSMO	1973-1994	The Stephenville office opened in October 1973, assuming upper-air observations from Carswell AFB and radar operations from Fort Worth. This configuration continued until the mid 1990's, when both functions moved back to Fort Worth.
Taylor	WBO	1901-1933	A Weather Bureau Office was established in November 1901 at the National Bank Building, then relocated to the Federal Building in July 1930. The office closed in 1933.
Tyler	WBO WBAS	1938-1947	The Weather Bureau opened an office at Pounds Field in January 1938; the CAA was responsible for surface observations through 1941, then resumed the responsibility in November 1946. The Weather Bureau office closed at this time.
Victoria	WBAS WSO	1946-1996	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was established in December 1946 at Aloe Field. Radar testing began in the fall of 1949, operating various radars from Copano Research the office's existence. The office was moved to Foster Field in 1961. Upper-air observations began in July 1966, after being relocated from the San Antonio office. The office was closed in 1996.
Waco	WBO WBAS WSO	1940-1993	The Weather Bureau took over the station at Rich Field in February 1940, and relocated to the Army airfield at Blackland Field in 1943. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned 4/28/1955, and replaced with a WSR-74C radar 11/8/1976. The office closed in 1993.
Wichita Falls	WBO WBAS WSO	1944-1993	The Weather Bureau took over operations from the CAA at Kell Field in February 1944, and was moved to the other side of the airport in June 1960 in a joint operation with the Air Force at Sheppard AFB. A military APS-2F radar was first installed in October 1947, and converted to the Weather Bureau equivalent WSR-1 4/25/1956. The radar was replaced with a WSR-74C on 2/5/1977. The office was closed in 1993 during the NWS modernization.