

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Virginia

Location	Types	Years	Details
Arlington	WBAS	? - 1941	Operations of the Arlington airport office were relocated to Washington National Airport in June 1941.
Blacksburg	WFO	1996-present	The Blacksburg office was opened in 1996, after being relocated from Roanoke.
Cape Henry	SigSvc WBO WBMO	1873-1969	A Signal Service office was established at the Cape Henry Lighthouse in December 1873. The Weather Bureau took over in 1891, moving to new facilities in 1901 and 1918. The office was closed in May 1969.
Leesburg	CWSU	? - present	The Washington-area Center Weather Service Unit operates out of the ARTCC in Leesburg.
Lynchburg	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1871-1933, 1936-1985?	The Signal Service opened an office in May 1871. The Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The office was moved to the Peoples National Bank Building in 1913, and remained there through July 1944, except for a short period when the office was closed in 1933-1936. The office was relocated to the Preston Glenn Airport in July 1944. The station was operated 16 hours a day beginning in July 1954. After resuming full-time operations briefly in the mid 1960's, it dropped back to 2 shifts a day in November 1967. The office was closed sometime after 1985.
Mount Weather	WBMO	1904-1914	The Mount Weather Research Observatory was established about 50 miles west of Washington DC, dedicated to observations of the upper levels of the atmosphere. Operations began to wind down after balloon and kite research was transferred to the new Drexel, Nebraska office.
Newport News	WBAS	1955	A part-time Weather Bureau Airport Station operated in 1955 at Patrick Henry Airport northwest of Newport News.
Norfolk	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1871-1995	The first Signal Service office in Norfolk opened at the Burrus Bank Building (previously called the U.S. Custom House) on 1/1/1871. It relocated to the Dalton Building in 1881 and the Dogson Building in 1888, which is where the Weather Bureau took over in 1891. Several more moves for the city office were taken, before it merged with the airport station (which had opened in May 1940) at Norfolk Municipal Airport in August 1953. Upper-air observations began in April 1965. The office closed in 1995, when its functions were moved to a new facility in Wakefield.
Petersburg	WBAS	1944-1946	A Weather Bureau office opened at the municipal airport in July 1944, but was only operational for a couple years.
Richmond	WBAS WBO WSO	1897-1996	A Weather Bureau office opened at the Chamber of Commerce Building in October 1897, moving a couple times before a dedicated Weather Bureau building was opened in 1910. An airport station was established at Byrd Field in July 1928; it closed from 1935-1938, then again from 1942-1946 when the airport became an Army Air Field during the war. The airport station was re-established in April 1946, and the city office moved here in the mid 1950's. A WSR-3 radar was commissioned at Byrd Field 7/7/1958, and was decommissioned in October 1969. The office was closed in 1996, with its functions transferred to the new Wakefield office.

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Roanoke	WBAS WBO WSO	1947-1995	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was established in July 1947 at Woodrum Field (current Roanoke Regional Airport). The office was relocated to a new facility in Blacksburg in 1995.
Sterling	WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO WSFO WFO	1960-present	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was opened at Dulles Airport in 1960. A testing facility was constructed adjacent to the airport grounds. The airport station was converted to a contract meteorological observatory in 1980. The area Weather Forecast Office was moved to Sterling in the early 1990's.
Urbanna	WBO	1945-1951	The Weather Bureau opened an office at the Urbanna Grade School in February 1945. The station operated 24 hours a day through January 1949, then 16 hours a day afterward. The office closed in March 1951.
Volens	WSMO	1977-1995	A NWS Meteorological Observatory was opened at Volens to operate the WSR-74S radar, which was commissioned 4/12/1977. The office was closed in 1995.
Wakefield	WFO	1995-present	This office opened in 1995 during the NWS modernization, merging operations from the Norfolk and Richmond offices.
Wallops Island	WBO WSO WSMO WSCMO	1960-present	An office was opened at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility to conduct upper-air observations; a separate office operated at the airport to take surface observations. The airport office closed in 1980, and the NASA office was changed to an NWS Contract Meteorological Observatory.
