

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Wisconsin

Location	Type	Years	Details
Green Bay	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1896- present	The Signal Service began taking observations in downtown Green Bay in 1886. This was later assumed by the Weather Bureau, but remained downtown until 1949. At that time, the office and observations moved to Austin Straubel Airport. The airport station began a joint operation with the CAA in June 1954, which persisted until September 1955. The office has relocated a couple times since then, most recently 1994, but remains at the airport. The WSR-88D Doppler radar was commissioned in 1995. The office also takes upper air observations twice a day.
La Crosse	SigSvc WBO WSO WFO	1872- present	The Signal Service began observations 10/15/1872. Observations by the Weather Bureau began in 1890 at the post office, and moved to a new building in 1907. Operations moved to the La Crosse Airport in 1952, then to the new post office in February 1969. New facilities were constructed in 1996, with expanded operations and staffing. A WSR-88D radar was also constructed for the area.
Neenah	WSMO	1971- 1995	A WSR-57 radar was operated from this office, termed a Weather Service Meteorological Observatory, as part of the NWS radar network. The radar was commissioned 6/28/1971. The office closed in November 1995, after the commissioning of the NEXRAD radar at Green Bay.
Madison	SigSvc WBO WB/UA WBAS WSO	1878- 1883, 1904- 1996	The Signal Service established observing functions in downtown Madison in 1878, although observations had been taken at the University of Wisconsin campus dating back to 1869. When the Signal Service office closed in May 1883, UW resumed local observations. This continued until 1904, when the Weather Bureau opened an office on campus. This Weather Bureau office was the site of the first routine weather broadcasts on radio, using UW's experimental station WHA in 1920. A second office opened at the Madison Airport in 1939, although the UW office remained open until 1963. A WSR-3 radar was commissioned at the airport on 3/29/1958, later replaced by a newer WSR-74C radar, which remained in use until replaced by the Sullivan WSR-88D in 1995. The NWS office in Madison closed April 1, 1996. Observations were automated, and augmentation of these observations was transferred by the FAA to contact observers.
Milwaukee	SigSvc WBO WSFO WSO	1870- 1995	Observations for the Milwaukee area were begun by the Signal Service in November 1870, and were assumed by the new Weather Bureau in 1890. The observing site was in various locations downtown until March 1, 1941, when the site was moved to Mitchell Field. The office eventually assumed forecast responsibility, in addition to the observations. The forecast functions were moved to a new office in Sullivan in October 1989, leaving the observing function at the airport. The airport office closed in the summer of 1995; the FAA contracted out responsibility for monitoring observations sent out by the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS).
Sullivan	WFO	1989- present	Forecast functions of the Milwaukee Mitchell Airport office were moved to a new facility in Sullivan in October 1989. This was part of a plan to consolidate the Madison and Milwaukee facilities into a single location. The Milwaukee airport office closed the summer of 1995, and the Madison airport office closed April 1, 1996. The Sullivan facility also features a WSR-88D radar, replacing the old WSR-74C at Madison.
Wausau	WBO	1915- 1933	