

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Louisiana

Location	Type	Years	Details
Alexandria	WBAS WSO	1960-1979?	A Weather Bureau Airport Station opened in January 1960 at Esler Field. Beginning in 1964, the station was operated jointly with the FAA, then the FAA became solely responsible for the surface observations in June 1977 when the NWS office moved to the Federal Building. The NWS closed the office by the end of 1979.
Baton Rouge	WBAS WSO	1945-1993	The Weather Bureau opened an office at Harding Field (currently Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport) in February 1945 after the Army Air Force closed its station at the airport. A WSR-1 radar was commissioned 8/16/1955, and replaced by a city-owned WR100-5 radar on 8/17/1973. A WSR-74C radar was commissioned in its place 10/20/1978. The office was closed in 1993 when its functions were transferred to the Slidell office.
Boothville	WBO WSMO WSCMO	1965, 1966-1969, 1971-1988	A Weather Bureau office opened in February 1965, with surface and upper-air observations, replacing the Burrwood station. The station was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy in September of that year, and the office was closed the remainder of 1965. It was destroyed again in August 1969 following Hurricane Camille, and reopened in April 1971. The office was changed to a Contract Meteorological Observatory in July 1979, and was permanently closed in 1988.
Burrwood	WBO	1942-1965	A Weather Bureau office was opened at the mouth of the Mississippi River in March 1942 to conduct upper-air observations. A WSR-1 radar was in September 1956, and replaced by a WSR-4 in 1960. The office was relocated to Boothville in February 1965.
<u>Lake Charles</u>	WBAS WSO WFO	1939-present	Although weather observations in Lake Charles began in late 1887, the Weather Bureau did not open until 2/12/1939, when it established an office at Old Calcasieu Paris Airport (later known as Chennault AFB). The office moved to the Lake Charles Regional Airport 11/22/1961, then to new facilities on the airport grounds in February 1996.
<u>New Orleans</u>	SigSvc WBO DFO RDO HC WSFO WSCMO	1870-1994?	<p>A Signal Service office was established 10/4/1870 in downtown New Orleans, and was taken over by the Weather Bureau 7/1/1891. Besides normal forecast operations, the office became home to the Satellite Field Service Station, as well as an Area Aviation Forecast Center. A hurricane forecasting center also operated here starting in 1935, covering the Gulf of Mexico west of 85°W; the forecasting responsibility was transferred to the National Hurricane Center in 1966, but warnings and advisories continued to be issued by the New Orleans office until 1980.</p> <p>The forecast facility, in various locations, remained in New Orleans until 4/25/1979, when it was merged with the radar observatory in Slidell, along with the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (which was established in 1971). A contract NWS office operated at the New Orleans International Airport through the mid 1990's.</p>
<u>Shreveport</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS RDO WSO WFO	1871-present	The Signal Service opened its Shreveport office in September 1871, and it was taken over by the new Weather Bureau in July 1891. After being at various downtown locations, it moved to the downtown airport 10/6/1941. It then moved to the Greater Shreveport Regional Airport 7/6/1952. A WSR-1 radar was installed in 1953, and later upgraded, but replaced by the WSR-88D in the 1990's. Upper air observations began in 1956, after relocating from Barksdale AFB; these observations were transferred to the Longview, TX office in 1975,

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then returned to Shreveport in 1995.

Slidell

WSMO
RFC
WSFO
WFO

1972-present

A radar observatory opened in Slidell to operate the WSR-57 radar system. On 4/25/1979, it merged with the forecast office which moved from New Orleans, as well as the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center. In February 1994, the offices relocated to new facilities in Slidell, and the WSR-57 was eventually replaced by the WSR-88D.

The Slidell (now Lower Mississippi) River Forecast Center was established in May 1971 at the radar observatory. The New Orleans forecast office also relocated here in April 1979.
