WHUR

U S 1

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Official No. 109

W H U R-FM (EFF: 12-10-71)

x W T O P - FM (Eff. 4-1-49

Date first licensed 3-31-48

Call letters ~~W T O P - F M~~

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY(APLH 10-21-71,Consummated 11-22-71, Eff: 12-10-71)

x POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, CAPITAL AREA, INC. (ALH 9-26-67 Eff. 10-14-67)

xTHE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY (BALH-242; Gr. 7-3-56; EFF: 7-5-56)

X W T O P INC. (Gr. 3-23-49; Eff. 4-1-49)

Name of licensee x WINX BROADCASTING COMPANY

* 4001 ~~and~~ Brandywine St., N. W. Wash, D. C.

x5200 Lee Highway, Garden City, Virginia (Arlington County)

Transmitter location ~~South side of Lee Highway opposite Florida Avenue intersection,~~ Garden City, Virginia

2600 4th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. (RC 12-10-71)

20059 x 4001 Brandywine St., NW , Wash. 16, D. C.(Ltr. 10-19-53)

X Warner Building,

Main studio location ~~Eighth and Eye Streets, N. W.,~~ Washington, D. C.

FCC-65

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Mcs. Freq.	E.R.P. Power	Time Div.	Period From- To-
B1-PH-783	8-9-46	92.9 No. 255	20 kw		
Letter	9-6-46	Subject to approval of Mod. of C.P. specifying new transmitter site and details.			
Telegram	9-16-46	Authority granted to use REL 518B-DL 1 kw transmitter in lieu of REL 1 kw converter for period ending 12-5-46 on 92.9 megacycles.			
Letter	9-11-46	Granted authority to operate on 92.9 mcs. using an REL 1 kw converter with Maximum power of 1 kw and a 4-bay WE cloverleaf antenna and on 43.2 mcs. using a composite 1 kw transmitter with maximum power of 1 kw and a 1-bay circular antenna, both antennas mounted on top of a tower at an overall height of 350 feet above ground at Lee Highway and Florida Ave., Garden City, Arlington, Virginia for purpose of providing an FM program service for period ending 12-5-46.			
B1-~~MPH~~-139 B1-PH-783	11-29-46	92.9 No.225	20 kw.	U	By 1-29-47 To 7-29-47
Mod. to specify trans. location, type of trans., and antenna system					
	12-10-46	Temporary assignment 44.7 mcs.			
Letter	1-14-47	STA to operate 43.2 & 44.7 mcs using Composite 1 kw trans. with max. power 1 kw. & 1 bay circular ant. mount on top of a tower with an overall height of 350 ft. above ground located at Lee Hgwy & Florida Ave. Garden City, Arl. Va. period 1-14-47 to 4-13-47. Operation on 43.2 mcs period 1-14-47 to 2-1-47			
Letter	1-14-47	STA to operate on 92.9 mcs using REL 518 B-DL 1 kw trans. and 4-bay WE cloverleaf ant. mount on top of a tower with overall height of 350 ft above ground located at Lee Hgwy and Fla. Ave., Garden City, Arlington Va. to provide FM program period 1-14-47 to 4-13-47			

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

B S

CARD #2

Call letters WTOP-FM ~~WINX-FM~~

Date first licensed

Name of licensee WTOP INC. ~~WINX BROADCASTING COMPANY~~

Transmitter location

Main studio location

FCC-65

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Mcs. Freq.	E.R.P. Power	Time Div.	Period From - To -
Telegram	3-26-47	Relet Engr. 21. Authority granted on 44.7 mcs. to substitute horizontal dipole antenna for 1-bay circular antenna period ending 4-13-47.			
Telegram	5-28-47	Relet. Att'y. Aut. ext. ending 6-28-47 operate 92.9 mcs. without approved frequency and modulation monitors. Requirements for maintenance frequency and modulation within required limits not waive			
Telegram	7-27-47	Relet Attorney. Ext to 7-29-47 (same as above - Telegram 5-28-47).			
Telegram	7-27-47	Relet Auth. ext. ending 7-29-47 operate 92.9 mcs. using REL 918B-DL trans. 1 kw power & 4-sect. WE cloverleaf ant. mount. on tower 350' above gr. at Lee Highway and Florida Avenue, Garden City, Arlington, Va. and on 44.7 mcs. using composite trans. 1 kw power and horizontal dipole ant. on same tower for FM program serv. Frequency 92.9 mcs. subj. to change in Docket 6768. CP expires 7-29-47.			
Telegram	7-23-47	7-23-47 Relet Attorney. Auth. ext. ending 10-1-47 operate 92.9 mcs. using REL 918B-DL trans. 1 kw & 4-sect. WE Cloverleaf ant. mounted on tower 350' above gr. at Lee Highway & Florida Ave. Garden City, Arlington, Va. Frequency subj. change Comm. ltr. 7-23. Auth. ext same period operate 44.7 mcs. using composite trans. 1 kw power and horizontal dipole ant. on same tower.			
	8-13-47 Freq.	96.3 (No. 242) assignment accord Do. 6768			
BMPH-503 Mod. for	7-8-47 ext. of completion date.	96.3	20 kw	U	By 1-29-47 to 11-29-47
Drylet	8-13-47	Relet 4. Auth ext. change freq. 92.9 to 96.3. Notify Com when op starts 96.3			

Card #3
B S

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed .....

Call letters ~~WINX-FM~~ WTOP-FM

Name of licensee x WINX BROADCASTING COMPANY WTOP INC.

Transmitter location .....

Main studio location .....

FCC-65

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From- To-
Telegram	3-25-47	Relet 2C. Auth. ext. period ending Nov. 29, 1947, operate 96.3 Mcs. using REL 518B-DL trans., max. output power 1 kw and four section WE Cloverleaf antenna mounted on tower 350 feet above ground at Lee Highway and Florida Ave., Garden City, Arlington, Va. Auth. ext. same period operate 44.7 Mcs. using Composite trans., 1 kw output power and horizontal Dipole antenna on same tower.			
BMPH-1018 MOD C.P.	11-6-47 for ext.	96.3 of compl. date	20 kw.	U	By 1-29-47 To 1-29-48
Telegram	11-24-47	Relets atty. 19-21 Auth. extended interim operation period ending Jan. 29, 1948.			
Telegram	12-31-47	Relet atty. 31 Auth. modified period ending Jan. 29, 1948 operate 96.3 Mcs. equipment exact accordance CP BPH-783 as modified for purpose FM program service.			
BLH-144 License to cover (mailed 4-30-48)	3-31-48	96.3 mc Ch#242	20 kw Terr:	U 500'	3-31-48 to 3-31-49
BALH-20	3-23-49	Assignment of license			
Telegram	3-30-49	Ext. of license			To 7-1-49
BRH-109	6-29-49	Renewal of license			To 3-1-50
BSH-109	2-23-50	Extension of license to			6-1-50
BSH-109	5-31-50	Extension of license to			9-1-50
BRH-109	7-21-50	Renewal of license			7-21 - 3-1-53
BPH-1731 CP make changes exist. station	1-16-52	96.3	20 kw. Terr:	U 390 ft.	By 3-16-52 To 9-16-52
Telegram 4-11-52 Interim Auth. in BPH-1731 from		Relet Atty10- Auth. granted operate facil. 4-18-52 to 6-18-52 Re: Program Service			
Telegram 6-17-52 6-28-52 pending action on		Relatatty 13- Interim auth. extended to license application			
BLH-841	11-28-52	License to cover C.P. to			3-1-53
BRH-109	2-4-53	Renewal of license to			10-1-54
BRH-109	9-22-54	Renewal of license to			10-1-57
Letter	5-12-55	STA to multiplex W [illegible] using sub-carrier transmission; frequency modulated [illegible] to [illegible] music; sub-main channel by sub-carrier not to exceed 30.; purpose demonstrating multiplex transmission & receiving equipment from May 20-1955 to 5-27-55.			

B S. #4

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed .....

Call letters WTOP-TV

Name of licensee THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY

Transmitter location .....

Main studio location .....

FCC-65

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From-- To--
BALH-242	7-3-56	Vol. assignment to The Washington Post Co			
BALH-242	7-3-56 C.P. in	Superseding authorization to cross out lieu of license.			
BRH-109	9-25-57	96.3	20kw Terr:	U 390'	10-1 10-1-60
BRH-109	9-25-60	Renewal of License			10-1 10-1-63
BRH-109	9-27-63	Renewal of license			10-1 10-1-66
BTC-4417	12-20-63	Voluntary transfer of control of licensee corporation from Philip L. Graham, Deceased to (Mrs.) Katharine Graham.			
BRH-109 HAAT:390'	9-1-66	96.3mcs Ch.#242 RENEWAL OF LICENSE.	ERP:20kw TPO:6.5kw	Unl.	10-1-66 10-1-69
BALH-1014	9-26-67	Voluntary assignment of license			
BRH-109	9-1-66	96.3mcs	20kw	Unl.	10-1-66 10-1-69
	Superseding Ren. to correct overall hght.				
BSH-109 (1)	2-26-68	Mod.Lic. correct antenna support description (Memo.)			
BRH-109 (2)	11-2 5-69	Renewal			10-1-72
BPH-7266 HAAT: 500' (H&V)	11-12-70	96.3 mc. CP install ant, chg ant system,	ERP: 20 kw (H&V) TPO: 5.1 kw TPO:, ERP:, & HAAT:		1-12-71 11-12-71
BTC-6537	4-28-71	VOL. TC EFF: 3-18-71			
BAPLH-118	10-21-71	VOL. ALPH			
BMPH-13,359(1)	11-5-71	MP (BPH-7266) extension time			5-12-72
BRCH-1058(L)	12-10-71	ML chg. studio, operate by RC & call ltrs.			10-1-72
		96.3mc	ERP: 20kw	HAAT: 390'	
BPH-7266 (L) FORFEITED	12-10-71	Mod of (BPH-7266) chg. studio, call ltrs. & operate by RC			5-12-72
EBSA	5-22-72				
BRH-109(s)	11-17-72	Renewal			~~10-1-75~~
BPH-8182 HAAT: 500' (H&V)	12-20-72	96.3mhz. #242	ERP: 20kw(H&V) (RC)		12-20-73
		CP chg. TL (same site) install new tran new ant., make chgs. ant. system (incr. hgt.) chg. TPO.			

Form BC 126
June 1954

#5

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed .....

Call letters W H U R FM

Station location .....

Name of licensee .....

Transmitter location .....

Main studio location .....

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From To
BMPH-13742 (1)	5-4-73	MP(BPH-8182) chg. trans. ERP: 24kw(H&V)		HAAT: 670	TPO, (H&V)
BLH-5867(L) HAAT: 670'	7-26-73 (H&V)	Lic.(BPH-8182, as mod.) ERP: 24kw(H&V)		96.3mhz	-Changes-10-1-75
BRH-109(S)	10-7-75	Renewal of license			10-1-78
COMTEL	7-9-76	Auth granted operate with SPARTA 612 trans and COLLINS 310Z-2 exciter			
BRH-109	9-14-78 (L)	REN.OF LIC.			10-1-81

Form 94 APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING FM (METROPOLITAN)

WTOP-FM

Call Letters ~~WINX-FM~~ -NEW-

THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY

X WTOP INC. (Gr. 3-23-49; Eff.)

Name x WINX BROADCASTING COMPANY

x (P. O. Eighth and Eye Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.)

4001 Brandywine St NW ~~Warner Building~~, Washington, D. C.

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
B1-PH-783 Rec'd Filed	11-7-45 11-8-45 11-8-45	Construction permit for new FM broadcast station (Metropolitan) Frequency: Channel #262, 100.3 mcs. Population: 1,585,522 Coverage: 12,419 sq. mi. Studio: Eighth & Eye Streets, N. W. Washington, D. C. Transmitter: 5 miles northwest of Bethesda, Maryland (GE GF-110B Max. 10 kw) Filed by ~~Philip G. Loucks, Attorney~~	GRANTED 9-6-46.	8-9-46. Subject to filing of Mod. of C.P. for approval of transmitter site and details. Letter written
B1-MPH-139 Rec'd Filed	8-28-46 8-29-46 8-29-46	Modification of construction permit (B1-PH-783 which authorized a new FM broadcast station) to specify population as 1,554,032; coverage as 12,121 sq. mi.; transmitter site as South side of Lee Highway opposite Florida Avenue intersection, Garden City, Va.; type of transmitter as REL 520A-DL	GRANTED	11-29-46

Card #2

Letter-6-15-48:--Loucks, Zinn, Young & Jansky-repre-
--sent-applicant

Letter 1-22-51: (Firm of Covington, Burling, Rublee, O'Brian & Shorb) Ernest W. Ennes, together with Fontaine C. Bradley, to represent licensee.

Form 94

Card #2

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WTOP-FM ~~WINX-FM~~

Name W T O P INC.
x WINX BROADCASTING COMPANY

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
B1-MPH-139	(continued)	Max. 10 kw; and specify antenna system. Filed by Philip G. Loucks, Attorney		
BMPH-503 Rec'd Filed	6-27-47 6-30-47 6-30-47	Mod. of C. P. (B1-PH-783 as modified) which authorized a new FM broadcast station for extension of completion date from 7-29-47 to 11-29-47.	GRANTED	7-8-47
BMPH-1018 Rec'd Filed	10-29-47 10-29-47 10-29-47	Mod. of C. P. (B1-PH-783 as modified) which authorized a new FM broadcast station for extension of completion date from 11-29-47 to 1-29-48. Filed by Maurice M. Jansky, Attorney	GRANTED	11-6-47
BLH-144 Rec'd Filed	1-28-48 1-29-48 1-29-48	License to cover C. P. (B5-PH-522 as modified) which authorized a new FM broadcast station. Filed by Maurice M. Jansky, Attorney	GRANTED	3-31-48

Card #3

FCC Form 94

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters W T O P - FM ~~WMINX-FM~~

Name WTOP, Inc. x WINX BROADCASTING COMPANY

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BRH-109 Recd Filed	2-1-49 2-2-49 2-2-49	Renewal of license	GRANTED	6-29-49
BALH-20 Recd Filed	1-17-49 1-17-49 2-14-49	Voluntary Assignment of license from WINX Broadcasting Company to WTOP Inc. Filed by Philip Loucks, Atty.	GRANTED Eff:	3-23-49 4-1-49
BRH-109 Recd & Filed	12-30-49 12-30-49	Renewal of license.	GRANTED	7-21-50
BPH-1731 Rec'd. Filed	12-13-51 12-13-51 12-13-51	Construction permit to make changes in existing FM broadcast station to change transmitter location from 5232 Lee Highway, Garden City, Virginia to 40th and Brandywine Sts., N. W. Washington, D. C. antenna height above average terrain from 500 ft., to 388 ft., and make changes in the antenna system. Filed by Ernest W. Jennes, Atty.	GRANTED Ant. ht. abv.aver. terr: 390 ft.	1-16-52

CARD #4

FORM A-170

FORMERLY FCC FORM 94

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WTOP-FM

Name The Washington Post Company
x W T O P, INC.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BPH-1731	Continued	Engr. info. recd. 12-28-51 re laterals Sec. VB-page 2. & ant. hght. abv. terrain.	GRANTED (See Card #3)	1-16-52
BLH-841 Rec'd. Filed	6-12-52 6-13-52 6-13-52	License to cover construction permit (BPH-1731) which authorized changes in existing station. Ernest W. Jennes- Atty	GRANTED	11-28-52
BRH-109 Rec'd Filed	12-3-52 12-4-52 12-4-52	Renewal of License Filed by Ernest W. Jennes, Atty.	GRANTED	2-4-53
BRH-109 Recd & Filed	7-1-54 7-2-54	Renewal of license Amendment filed 7-13-54 - new Exh. 2	GRANTED	9-22-54
BALH-342 Recd & Filed	6-19-56 6-19-56	Vol. assignment to The Washington Post Company Filed by Covington & Burling, Attys.	GRANTED EFF:	7-3-56 7-5-56
BRH-109 REC'D Filed	7-3-57 7-5-57 7-5-57	Renewal of license. E. Jennes, Atty.	GRANTED	9-25-57
BRH-109 R.&F.	7-5-60 7-5-60	RENEWAL OF LICENSE Atty-Ernest W. Jennes	GRANTED	9-28-60

J.C.C. WASHINGTON, D. C.

FORM BC-121
AUG. 1955 #5

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WTOP-FM

Name THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BRH-109 Rec'd Filed	6-29-63 7-1-63 7-1-63	Renewal of License Ernest W. Jennes, Atty.	GRANTED	9-24-63
STC-4417 R. & F.	10-25-63 10-25-63	Voluntary transfer of control of licensee corporation from Philip L. Graham, Deceased to (Mrs.) Katharine Graham. Atty- Covington & Burling	GRANTED	12-20-63

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION re 73.242 filed 4-15-65 by Jennes for licensee

ERRATA re above filed 4-19-65 by Jennes for licensee

Ltr. dated 6-25-65 from Jennes (19 copies) re further information re waiver 73.242

PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION in the Matter of Request for Exemption from the Fifty Percent Nonduplication requirement. Filed 4-15-66 by Coving & Burling

SUPPLEMENT TO REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION AND PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION filed 5-12-66.

FORM BC-121 #6
AUG. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters W T O P-FM

Name POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, CAPITAL AREA, INC.
xx THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY
Washington, D. C.

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BRH-109 R & F	6/30/66 7/5/66	Renewal of License Atty: Covington & Burling	GRANTED	9-1-66
REQUEST FOR FURTHER TEMPORARY EXEMPTION of Section 73.242(a) of the Rules filed 10-21-66 by Jennes for WTOP-FM.				
BALH-1014 R & F (Form 316) SEP 19 1967	9-11-67 9-11-67	Voluntary assignment of license to POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, CAPITAL AREA, INC. Atty - Covington & Burling	GRANTED	9-26-67
BRH-190 R & F #526884$75. P.N. filed PRESS AUG 8	7-3-69 7-3-69 7-3-69 7-3-69 1969	Renewal of license Atty-Covington & Burling (Ernest W. Jennes) AMENDED 8-21-69 re: commercial practices	GRANTED	11-25-69

#7

96.3mc

Form BC-121
September 1969

APPLICATION RECORD · BROADCASTING

Call Letters W T O P-FM

Name Post-Newsweek Stations, Capital Area, Inc.
Washington, D. C.

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BPH-7266 R & F #631208 $50 CODE: 061 PRESS: OCT 1 1970	9-21-70 9-21-70 9-21-70	CP install new Ant(RCA-BFC-8, 8 horiz. & 8 vert. sects) make chgs in ant. system(incr. hght); chg. TPO: 5.05kw; operate with vert. ERP: 20kw; chg. HAAT: 500 ft.; operate with vert. HAAT: 500 ft.;Change Antenna location (Coordinates Only). 38° 57' 01" - 77° 04' 47" Atty - Christopher M. Little(Covington & Burling) Engr-------	GRANTED	11-12-70
BAPLH-118 R & F FEE PD: $1000 #653342 CODE 049 JAN 19 1971 PN filed	12-30-70 12-31-70 1-28-71	Voluntary assignment of license and CP(BPH-7266) to THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY Atty for assignor - Covington & Burling for assignee - Arnold & Porter AMENDED 3-24-71 - legal data re B/C qualifications(assignee) AMENDED 5-12-71 - statment re financial plans; appointment of addl. Trustees (SEE OVER)	GRANTED Conditional re: grant fee. Consummated 11-22-71. Eff: 12-10-71.	10-21-71

WASHINGTON, D. C.

REF BAPLH-118 - AMENDED 6-18-71 - statement re student trustee (ended on June 4, 1971); prog. re comm. needs
AMENDED 7-7-71 - substitute Page 8 of Attachment A to above amend filed 6-18-71

Ltr re available funds (appropriation) filed 8-10-71
Statement re proposed commercial operation filed 10-5-71

Form BC-121
September 1969

#8

96.3mc

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WHUR-FM
X WTOP-FM

Name THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY
X POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, CAPITAL AREA, INC.
Washington, D. C.

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BTC-6537 R&F	3-25-71	Vol. TCof The Washington Post Company(parent corp. of Post-Newsweek Stations,Inc. which is parent corp. of lic. corp.) from Wilmington Trust Company to Katharine Graham. Ernest W. Jennes (Covington & Burling), Attys.	GRANTED EFF:	4-28-71 5-18-71
BMPH-13,359 R & F #011065 $50 CODE: 068 PRESS: 21 OCT 1971	10-11-71 10-12-71 10-12-71	MP(BPH-7266) ext. of time to_____ (FOR CHANGES). Atty - Christopher M. Little(Covington & Burling)	GRANTED TO:	11-5-71 5-12-72
BRCH-1058 R&F $50 #515284 068 PRESS 10 DEC 1971	11-30-71 12-1-71 12-2-71	ML change main studio location and operate by remote control from 2600 4th St., Wash., D.C. N.W. David Lloyd, Atty.(Arnold & Porter)	GRANTED	12-10-71

Form BC-121
September 1969

APPLICATION RECORD · BROADCASTING

Call Letters WHUR-FM

Name THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action: Nature	Action: Date
BRH-109 R & F PN PRESS JUL 17 1972	7-3-72 7-5-72 7-5-72	Renewal of License Atty-Arnold & Porter AMENDED 10-31-72 re: programming; emp. policy	GRANTED	11-17-72
BPH-8182 R & F #134863 $50 Code 061 Press DEC 18 1972	12-8-72 12-8-72 12-8-72	CP to chg. TL (Same Site); install new trans. (Sparta 620); install new ant. (RCA BFC-6B, 6 sects. (H&V); make chg. ant. system(increase height); chg. TPO; ERP: 20KW (H&V); HAAT: 500' (H&V). (38° 57' 01" - 77° 04' 47") Atty: Reed Miller	GRANTED	12-20-72
BMPH-13,742 R & F #173979 $50 Code 061 Press MAY 1 - 1973	4-9-73 4-12-73 4-12-73	MP (BPH-8182) chg. trans. (Sparta 612); chg. ERP: 24KW(H&V); HAAT: 670' (H&V) and chg. TPO. Atty: Reed Miller	GRANTED cond'l re: does not preclude station WGCB-FM	5-4-73

F.C.C. - WASHINGTON, D. C.

Later cards are missing

About the History Cards …

History Cards were first used by the Department of Commerce to keep track of applications filed by, and changes to, the earliest AM broadcast stations in the early 1920s. The records were subsequently transferred to the Federal Radio Commission in 1927, and after that to the Federal Communications Commission when that agency was created in 1934. These cards gradually grew into a large card file.

FM History Cards were initiated in the early 1940s, with the authorization of the earliest FM stations in the FM band, then at 42 to 50 MHz. (The band was shifted to its present location, 88 to 108 MHz, in 1946.) History Cards remained in use until the creation of the first computerized database in 1980 to track broadcast applications, the Broadcast Application Processing System (BAPS). However, the Commission did not transfer the data from the History Cards to the new system. Instead, it retained the History Cards in their original form for reference.

In 1999, the Commission moved to a new location (445 12th Street SW), and also at that time created the successor database to BAPS, the Consolidated DataBase System (CDBS). Prior to that move, the History Cards were transferred to microfiche by a contractor (only a few sets of microfiche exist), and the original paper cards were destroyed. The History Cards were stored on the microfiche as negative images, like those you see above.

History Cards contain very brief entries and notes about station facilities, applications, and ownership. They are not, and never were intended to be, a comprehensive record of a station's operations. Nevertheless, they can be useful to help determine, for example, when a station first went on the air and its call letters at that time. History Card comments were generally typed onto the cards, and thus some records will show more faintly or with more smudging than others, depending on the quality of typewriter and ribbon then used. Occasional handwritten comments, corrections, and strikeouts may also be found. Cards may be incomplete, missing, or occasionally out of sequence.

The History Cards are presented here as they were copied to microfiche, to preserve this record for public use, and with the hope that they will be of value to future researchers of radio station history.