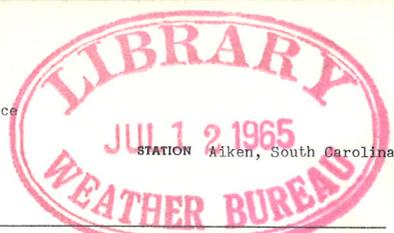


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
 IN COOPERATION WITH Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce
 CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 - 38
CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY
 Revised April 1965



LATITUDE 33° 34' N
 LONGITUDE 81° 44' W
 ELEV. (GROUND) 527 feet

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1935-1964

Month	Temperature (°F)								** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)						Mean number of days									
	Means				Extremes					Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet			Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures		Month						
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily		Year	90° and above		32° and below	32° and below	0° and below			
																							Max.	Min.	
(a)	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	
Jan.	58.5	37.4	48.0	81	1949	6	1940+	535	3.85	2.49	1964	0.2	3.2	1936	3.2	1936	6	0	*	10	0	0	0	0	Jan.
Feb.	61.5	38.7	50.1	81	1944	8	1943	434	4.22	5.52	1949	0.1	1.5	1958	1.5	1958	7	0	*	8	0	0	0	0	Feb.
Mar.	68.2	44.3	56.3	90	1945+	16	1943	313	4.74	3.39	1944	T	1.0	1960+	1.0	1950	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	Mar.
Apr.	76.5	51.9	64.2	92	1942	26	1940	74	4.14	2.69	1936	0	0	0	0	0	6	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	Apr.
May	84.0	60.7	72.4	100	1953	40	1960+	0	3.37	2.88	1955	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	May
June	89.6	67.8	78.7	108	1954	51	1954+	0	3.60	2.30	1955	T	T	1952	T	1952	7	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	June
July	90.4	70.2	80.3	107	1952	58	1936	0	4.72	5.61	1939	0	0	0	0	0	8	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	July
Aug.	89.8	69.9	79.9	105	1954	57	1944+	0	4.88	4.70	1941	0	0	0	0	0	6	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	Aug.
Sep.	84.5	64.9	74.7	102	1941	44	1942	0	3.90	3.31	1948	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sep.
Oct.	76.5	54.2	65.4	99	1954	29	1952	74	2.24	5.59	1946	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	*	0	0	0	0	Oct.
Nov.	66.8	44.1	55.5	88	1961	11	1950	294	2.64	2.92	1947	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	Nov.
Dec.	58.1	37.1	47.6	83	1956	5	1962	539	3.79	3.47	1941	0.1	3.2	1935	2.8	1935	6	0	*	10	0	0	0	0	Dec.
Year	75.4	53.4	64.4	108	June 1954	5	Dec. 1962	2263	46.09	5.61	1939	0.4	3.2	Dec. 1935+	3.2	Jan. 1936	72	64	*	36	0	0	0	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F Computed from monthly temperatures rather than actual degree day averages.

CLIMATE OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Aiken City is located centrally in Aiken County. The county borders on Georgia where the Savannah River forms a natural boundary. A four pronged narrow ridge, an off shoot from the Piedmont Plateau, extends southeastward into the county, dividing the county into two drainage areas. The west and southern portions are drained by the Savannah River, the remainder of the county by the north and south forks of the Edisto River. The ridge ranges in elevation from about 600 feet where it enters the northwestern part of the county near Eureka, to about 530 feet at Aiken, to slightly over 400 feet near White Pond in the southeastern portion of the county. The lowest elevations averaging near 150 feet M.S.L. are in the Savannah River Valley. The county is part of the Aiken Plateau, which is primarily sandhill country and the soil ranges from sand to sandy loams. The terrain is generally rolling. Weather conditions at Aiken and Augusta appear to be quite representative for conditions in the county generally, if one allows for one-half to one degree lower averages in the winter temperatures for the northeastern third of the county.

The prevailing climate is temperate (Cfa by Köppen; Johansson Continentality Index - 39%) and is controlled largely by the characteristics of the air masses and pressure systems that march across the country throughout the year. There is an occasional inflow of maritime air for short periods during the winter. However, the biggest exception to the continental type weather is during the summer when the march of pressure systems slows down with maritime air persisting over the area for long periods of time. During the late summer and fall it is not unusual for the Aiken area to receive fringe effects from the passage of tropical storms from the Caribbean, the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico. There are no wind records for the immediate Aiken area but it should follow closely the pattern of Augusta. The prevailing wind at Augusta is 6.4 miles per hour from the southeast, with the fastest mile ever recorded being 48 m.p.h. The relative humidity record should follow closely the values at Augusta where the average 1 p.m. values vary from a maximum of 57 per cent in the fall to a minimum of 49 per cent in the spring.

The summer temperatures are warm, characteristic of the South. There are, on the average, 4 days with values of 100 degrees or more - 1 in June, 1 in July, 1 in August and 1 in September. The year 1954, a record-breaking hot year in the southeastern part of the nation, gave 26 days of 100 degrees or higher. Summer is the rainiest season of the year, during which 29 per cent of the annual rainfall is accumulated. Except for rains which might occur in connection with tropical storms, the summer precipitation is in the form of showers.

The fall season, being a transition between extremes, partakes of

summer weather early in September, then passes through the "Indian Summer" period, to the prewinter cold spells which begin to be felt late in November. On the whole, this is the most pleasant time of year, especially the "Indian Summer" from late September to early November when rainfall is at a minimum, sunshine at a relative maximum and temperature extremes practically non-existent. The jarring note in the fall is the relative frequency of hurricane scares. Since September is the month of generally greatest hurricane frequency in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico frequent warnings are issued along the coast line. So far as is known, no hurricane conditions which would include damaging winds of major proportions have ever been reported. During the past 30 years heavy to excessive rains, resulting from nearby tropical storms, occurred in September 1959. The fall rainfall is 19 per cent of the annual total.

The winter season at Aiken is relatively mild. Cold outbreaks occur from time to time broken by longer periods of above freezing. There are, on the average, about 36 days with a minimum of 32 degrees or below. The typical winter should have about 3 days with a low of 20 degrees or below, 1 each in December, January and February and 1 day most likely in January, with a minimum of 15 degrees or below. Snowfall does sometimes occur during mid or late winter, although it is unusual to have a sustained cover for a day or longer. Days with a minimum of 32 degrees or below have occurred only 7 times during the past 30 years. Winter rainfall represents about 26 per cent of the annual total.

Spring is marked by rapid changes from frequently windy and cold in March to generally warm and pleasant in May. However, this is the time when alerts against tornadoes are most often issued. During the past 53 years, 13 tornadoes have been observed in Aiken County. The most destructive in recent times occurred in March 1955 in the Ridge Springs area, and another at nearby Augusta. About 26 per cent of the annual rainfall occurs in the spring. Hail, although relatively infrequent, does sometimes occur. For the last 30 years the growing season has averaged 233 days, with the average date of the last freezing temperature in the fall, November 11th. The first fall freeze has occurred as early as October 18th, and as late as December 20th. The last freezing temperature has occurred as early as February 9th, and as late as April 21st. The lowest known temperature for Aiken is 3 degrees recorded December 30th 1880. The highest known being 108 degrees in June 1954.

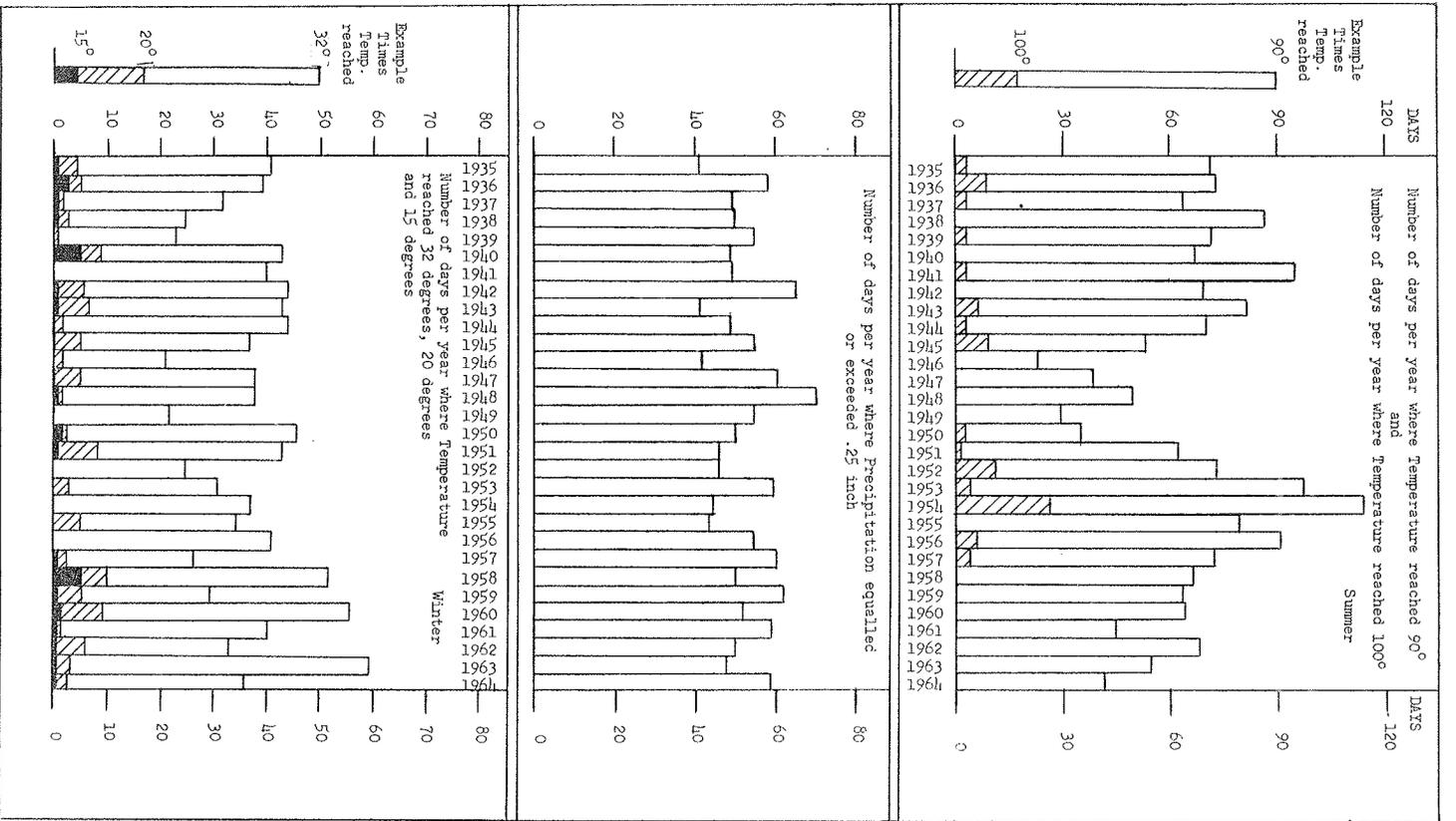
The following maximum rainfall intensities have been observed at:
 Augusta, Georgia 1 hour 2 hours 3 hours 24 hours
 Period (1902-1964) 3.07 3.98 4.46 9.82
 Date 8/14/03 9/6/48 9/6/48 10/19/29

Mean cloudiness observed between sunrise and sunset for the year period:
 Augusta, Ga. Clear (0-3 tenth) Partly Cloudy (3-7 tenth) Cloudy (8-10)
 Days 110 101 154

Norton D. Strommen, Weather Bureau State Climatologist for South Carolina, Columbia Metropolitan Airport, West Columbia, S. C.

Station History:

The first known weather observations in the Aiken area were begun in May 1854, but no records are available from these early observations. Weather records for Aiken date back to October, 1893, with the appointment of Dr. C. F. McGahan; this observation point was located eleven miles east of the Post Office, at elevation 565 feet, co-ordinates 33° 32' N and 81° 34' W. Observations were continued from this point until 1913, with Mr. H. T. Hall and C. E. Carman following as observers. From October 1913 to the present, observations were taken within the town limits, first by Mr. W. M. Brown, at the rear of the Post Office, up to April, 1916. From April, 1916 to the present, observations have been taken by Mr. F. B. McCoy, at his residence, which is located 0.8 of a mile west of the Post Office.



Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1935	3.04	1.56	1.79	2.08	1.74	3.03	3.88	5.97	6.91	0.12	2.73	2.92	35.77
1936	6.21	6.02	4.17	9.17	0.52	3.41	5.74	5.41	2.88	3.87	2.42	6.10	55.92
1937	4.12	4.06	2.77	7.37	1.35	3.41	3.41	8.15	2.44	1.90	1.76	1.39	51.57
1938	1.06	0.57	2.63	8.14	4.53	4.12	6.33	1.00	3.05	0.73	4.53	3.58	40.57
1939	2.11	10.35	2.80	4.39	1.93	3.77	7.87	5.52	3.05	0.10	0.43	3.93	53.07
1940	4.99	5.15	2.80	2.24	3.71	10.79	2.45	5.47	1.18	0.86	3.72	1.34	36.82
1941	3.05	4.96	3.07	1.87	4.93	8.79	6.19	6.19	0.94	2.97	0.43	6.47	46.10
1942	3.17	4.96	9.85	3.87	4.04	3.82	4.86	1.74	1.82	0.00	4.15	5.24	38.64
1943	4.12	4.76	7.48	4.25	3.29	2.52	3.86	1.74	1.82	0.00	2.36	5.24	38.64
1944	3.70	4.76	9.20	4.25	1.20	2.62	7.77	2.59	3.12	2.73	1.38	1.73	45.07
1945	1.73	4.33	1.19	4.04	2.89	2.77	5.85	6.36	2.35	1.66	0.56	7.62	45.35
1946	1.90	1.61	3.63	4.92	3.44	1.86	7.93	3.36	2.35	7.77	3.33	0.61	44.35
1947	3.11	6.50	6.69	3.65	1.75	4.25	2.93	3.36	3.13	4.81	0.58	6.53	57.39
1948	4.76	5.52	7.19	3.26	8.18	2.39	4.91	4.71	1.85	2.75	8.21	5.88	57.39
1949	-	-	1.63	5.22	3.58	2.51	4.91	10.20	4.85	3.50	1.00	2.88	67.13
1950	-	-	4.28	1.42	0.23	-	4.52	-	4.85	2.85	2.58	5.86	-
1951	1.22	2.16	4.28	2.58	0.39	4.23	3.30	3.20	3.07	2.61	2.58	2.10	31.72
1952	1.70	2.55	7.21	2.81	1.66	2.60	1.44	5.46	3.17	0.63	1.93	3.95	35.13
1953	3.46	6.79	3.81	3.00	4.99	5.49	2.59	3.58	8.16	0.00	1.05	7.43	50.35
1954	1.70	1.96	3.06	3.73	2.73	2.33	2.69	3.13	1.20	0.66	2.05	3.40	28.63
1955	4.47	2.50	2.36	4.82	2.73	2.33	3.44	4.93	1.72	1.28	3.10	0.75	39.10
1956	2.32	6.56	5.59	3.72	1.59	3.37	6.46	7.93	6.16	2.28	0.67	3.04	45.50
1957	3.36	1.71	3.22	2.00	8.84	3.69	2.06	1.90	6.11	3.34	7.28	3.17	46.69
1958	4.34	4.63	4.53	7.18	3.62	1.19	4.25	3.69	2.61	0.48	0.43	3.17	40.72
1959	7.82	6.27	6.14	3.14	2.21	2.24	3.95	4.34	10.85	9.02	0.10	3.18	60.52
1960	3.94	5.90	5.85	4.26	2.21	4.26	4.59	5.18	10.85	1.69	1.75	4.62	56.32
1961	7.82	7.94	4.94	8.42	3.59	2.97	4.33	8.39	1.87	0.32	1.39	4.21	52.91
1962	2.73	5.08	4.36	3.21	2.30	1.40	4.58	2.32	3.62	2.01	2.11	5.04	44.45
1963	6.00	5.08	4.36	4.00	1.70	1.40	2.05	1.26	4.86	0.00	5.71	2.89	44.45
1964	7.96	5.32	7.01	5.10	3.93	5.39	10.81	10.59	2.09	7.18	1.13	4.55	71.36

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1935	49.6	50.0	61.8	65.0	73.8	80.4	80.5	82.0	74.8	66.3	58.5	40.4	65.3
1936	44.4	45.5	60.1	62.2	71.2	79.4	82.2	80.9	77.2	68.2	54.6	50.0	64.9
1937	47.6	56.4	63.0	62.4	73.0	80.6	80.5	79.7	73.2	63.2	52.9	48.2	64.7
1938	50.4	54.4	60.0	63.6	70.6	81.0	81.4	78.7	76.1	65.8	59.0	48.2	65.7
1939	36.3	48.0	54.2	62.5	69.4	78.3	80.7	79.6	74.0	68.8	52.4	32.2	65.7
1940	50.4	43.8	50.8	62.2	71.4	78.2	81.7	78.7	78.3	65.2	51.0	32.2	63.1
1941	48.0	43.8	50.8	62.2	71.4	78.2	81.7	78.7	78.3	65.2	51.0	32.2	63.1
1942	46.8	43.8	50.8	62.2	71.4	78.2	81.7	78.7	78.3	65.2	51.0	32.2	63.1
1943	49.6	50.6	54.6	63.4	73.1	81.6	81.6	79.3	76.3	67.1	51.6	47.6	64.5
1944	47.2	54.0	65.0	63.1	73.2	80.0	80.0	77.8	76.8	65.0	51.0	42.4	61.2
1945	46.3	51.6	65.6	67.8	79.4	79.4	77.6	77.6	77.2	65.4	51.0	42.4	61.2
1946	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1947	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1948	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1949	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1950	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1951	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1952	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1953	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1954	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1955	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1956	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1957	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1958	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1959	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1960	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1961	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1962	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1963	47.5	51.6	61.5	64.8	70.2	76.6	78.3	77.4	75.0	67.9	51.0	42.4	61.2
1964	45.9	56.3	60.1	65.9	72.9	79.7	81.4	78.4	73.7	60.0	48.8	51.0	63.7