



Sherman Fairchild
1896-1971

Fairchild Aircraft

Historical Timeline

Pre-1925

- 1896 Sherman Fairchild born in Oneonta, New York on April 7.
- 1919 Sherman Fairchild designs the first Fairchild Aerial Camera and demonstrates it to Gen. Billy Mitchell and Lt. George Goddard.
- 1920 Sherman forms the Fairchild Aerial Camera Corp.
- 1921 Fairchild Aerial Camera Corp. receives an order for twenty cameras from the U.S. Army Air Service.

- Sherman Fairchild forms the Fairchild Aerial Surveys Corporation to offer commercial aerial photography and mapping services.

1925-1930

- 1925 Sherman Fairchild forms the Fairchild Airplane Manufacturing Corp., to design an airplane suitable to house and operate the Fairchild aerial camera.

- Fairchild-Caminez Engine Corp., is formed to develop aircraft engines.
- 1926 The Fairchild FC-1 prototype takes its first flight on June 14.
- 1927 The first Fairchild production airplane, the FC-2 takes flight on June 12.

- 1928 Fairchild becomes the largest producer of cabin monoplanes, providing aircraft for aerial photography and to the budding airline industry.
- 1929 Fairchild purchases the Kreider-Reisner Aircraft Corp., of Hagerstown, MD, on April 1.

- Fairchild merges with the Aviation Corporation.
- Stock Market Crash and the start of Great Depression in October.

1931-1940

- 1931 Fairchild/Kreider-Reisner introduce the Model 22 C7 high-wing monoplane that takes its first flight in June.

- 1932 The Fairchild 24 C8, an enclosed-cockpit monoplane, is introduced and takes its first flight in mid-summer.
- 1934 Sherman Fairchild regains control of the Ranger Engine Corp., formerly Fairchild-Caminez, from the Aviation Corporation.

- Fairchild designs and produces the first aircraft specifically created for hauling military cargo, the XC-31.

- 1935 The Model 45, five-seat, low-wing executive aircraft is produced, with 17 manufactured by 1937.

- The Model 91 "Baby Clipper" Amphibian is produced at the request of Pan American Airways. Production began in 1935 with 7 aircraft sold by 1937.


- 1936 Fairchild Aircraft and Ranger Engine merge to form the Fairchild Engine and Aircraft Corporation.
The Fairchild 24 is offered with a Ranger 6-390 engine.
- 1937 The Fairchild/Clark/Duramold 46 is designed and developed as a test bed for the Duramold process to create lightweight composite material for aircraft.

- 1938 Development begins on the Fairchild M-62 Military Primary Trainer.

1941-1950

- 1939 Two Fairchild M-62s win a U.S. Army Air Corps competition in Dayton, OH, receiving an order for 270 of the newly designated PT-19s.

- Between 1939 and 1943, over 5000 PT-19 and canopy version PT-26 trainers are produced.
- Approximately 1000 military versions of the Model 24, known as UC-61s were produced between 1939 and 1944.

- 1943 Fairchild designs and manufactures the AT-21 Gunnery Trainer with prototypes and the first few constructed in Hagerstown. A factory in Burlington, NC, is opened and 175 aircraft are produced.

- 1944 Fairchild Chief Engineer Armand Thieblot begins design work on what would become the Fairchild C-82 "Packet" in 1941. Its first flight is September 10, 1944, with 220 aircraft produced through 1948.


- 1946 Fairchild introduces the XNQ/T-33, an all metal replacement for the venerable PT-19 trainer. It takes its first flight on October 7 but does not go into production.

- 1947 The Fairchild C-119 "Flying Boxcar", an improved version of the C-82 "Packet", takes its first flight on November 17, with a total of 1183 produced through 1955.


- 1950 The Fairchild XC-120 "Pack Plane" a converted C-82 with a removable "Pod" cargo compartment, takes its first flight on August 11.


1951-1960

- 1954 Fairchild assumes contract for further development and manufacture of the C-123 "Provider" originally designed by Chase Aircraft. 303 of the aircraft are built between 1955 and 1958.

- Fairchild partners with Fokker Aircraft of Holland to manufacture the F-27 "Friendship" commercial airline. 206 of all variations are produced between 1958 and 1973.


1961-1970

- 1964 Fairchild purchases Hiller Helicopters of Palo Alto, CA., and the company name is changed to Fairchild-Hiller.
The company manufactures the FH-1100 helicopter between 1966 and 1973, with 253 being produced.

- Fairchild acquires license from Pilatus Aircraft of Switzerland to build and market the "Porter", 92 are built for both civilian and military.

- 1965 Fairchild-Hiller purchases Republic Aviation of Farmingdale, NY.
- 1969 Fairchild-Hiller purchases 90% of Swearingen Aircraft of San Antonio, TX, to produce and market the Merlin and Metro aircraft.


1971-1980

- 1972 Fairchild-Republic YA-10 is declared winner in A-X Competition
- 1976 Fairchild-Republic A-10 production begins with 713 produced through 1984.

- 1980 Fairchild partners with SAAB of Sweden to aid in design and manufacture of the SF-340 commuter airliner but withdraws in 1987 due to financial difficulties.


1981-2002

- 1984 Fairchild designs the T-46 Next Generation trainer to replace the T-37 and two full-size prototypes are built and tested before cancellation of the program in 1988.

- 1996 Fairchild purchases Dornier Aircraft of Germany and becomes Fairchild-Dornier. They produce 110 Model 328 aircraft before ceasing production in 2002.




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