Three Buildings Collapse

Did the South Tower collapse sooner due to the heavier load?

Both towers survived the airplane crashes, and slowly the flames were replaced by wisps of dark smoke. With hundreds of firemen rushing into the towers it seemed that the fires would soon be extinguished and the nightmare would be over. However, the South Tower suddenly collapsed 56 minutes after the airplane crash. About 40 minutes later the North Tower suddenly collapsed, which was 103 minutes after the airplane crashed into it. Why did the South Tower collapse so soon after the airplane crash?

The portion of the tower above the crash zone was about twice the size in the South Tower (Figure 5-1). Many people, FEMA included, believe the weight of this section caused the South Tower to collapse first. However, the steel columns in the crash zone of the South Tower were thicker in order to handle the heavier load above them. Therefore, the increase in weight above the South Tower's crash zone should have been compensated for by the increase in thickness of the steel columns.

A computer simulation might help us understand this issue. The MSC Software Corporation performed a

Figure 5-1

The section above the crash zone was twice the size in the South Tower; about 30 floors compared to 15 floors in the North Tower.

Flames are visible in this photo, but the hole in the North Tower is already black.

simulation, and a few of their images (Figure 5-2) ended up in the report produced by the House Science Committee on March 6, 2002. Unfortunately, as with most of the investigation, their analysis was not funded, so they used what was readily available to them, which happened to be a 747 crashing into a structure that had floors taller than the airplane. Since their simulation doesn't help us understand what happened when the 767 airplanes hit the World Trade Center, why were they included in the report? Was somebody trying to impress us?

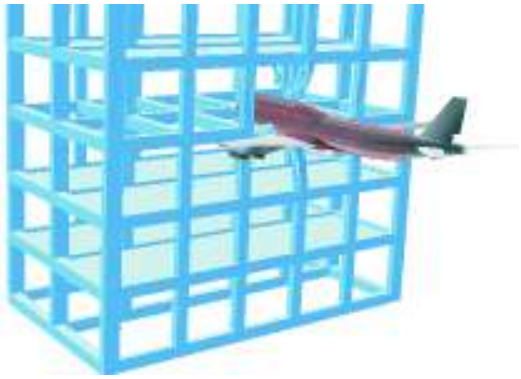


Figure 5-2 *A computer simulation that has no relevance to the 9-11 attack, but it looks intelligent!*

What caused the South Tower to collapse?

FEMA does not explain the collapse of the South Tower. Rather, they have a vague remark that the collapse was probably similar to the North Tower:

> *The same types of structural behaviors and failure mechanisms previously discussed are equally likely to have occurred in WTC 2*

So let's look at FEMA's explanation of the collapse of the North Tower.

The Pancake Theory

FEMA agrees with many experts who believe the collapse began when fire caused steel beams to expand, which then lead to the breaking of joints. FEMA has two diagrams in their report to explain this. The first diagram (Figure 5-3A) has the title *"Expansion of floor slabs and framing results in outward deflection of columns and potential overload."* It shows the fire heating the floor above it, and the expansion of that floor is pushing against the exterior and core columns, causing them to deflect.

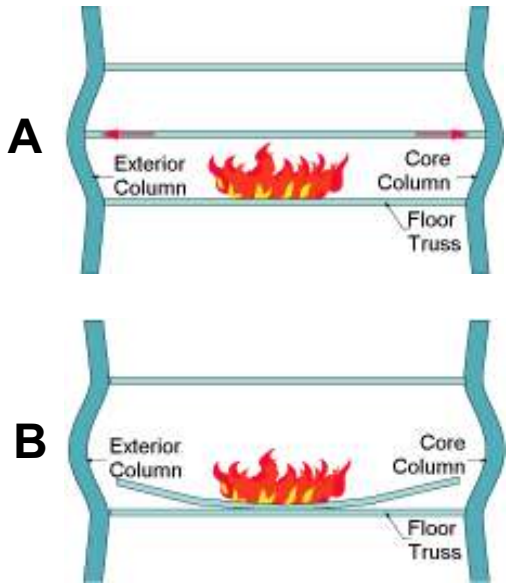


Figure 5-3 *Two figures from FEMA's report*

How many millimeters did the columns deflect? The towers were designed to be flexible enough to sway in storms, so a small deflection would be insignificant. Was the deflection beyond the design limits of the tower? Unfortunately, FEMA does not provide such details, nor any supporting evidence for their diagram.

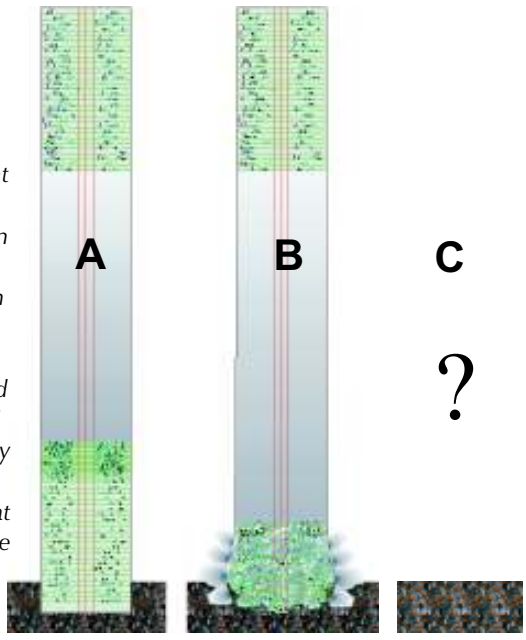
FEMA's second diagram (Figure 5-3B) shows a floor falling down. This diagram makes it appears as if the floor was held to the columns at only two locations, but the floors were *grids of steel* (Figure 3-12). In order for a floor to fall, *hundreds* of joints had to break almost simultaneously on 236 exterior columns and 47 core columns. FEMA does not bother to explain how this could occur.

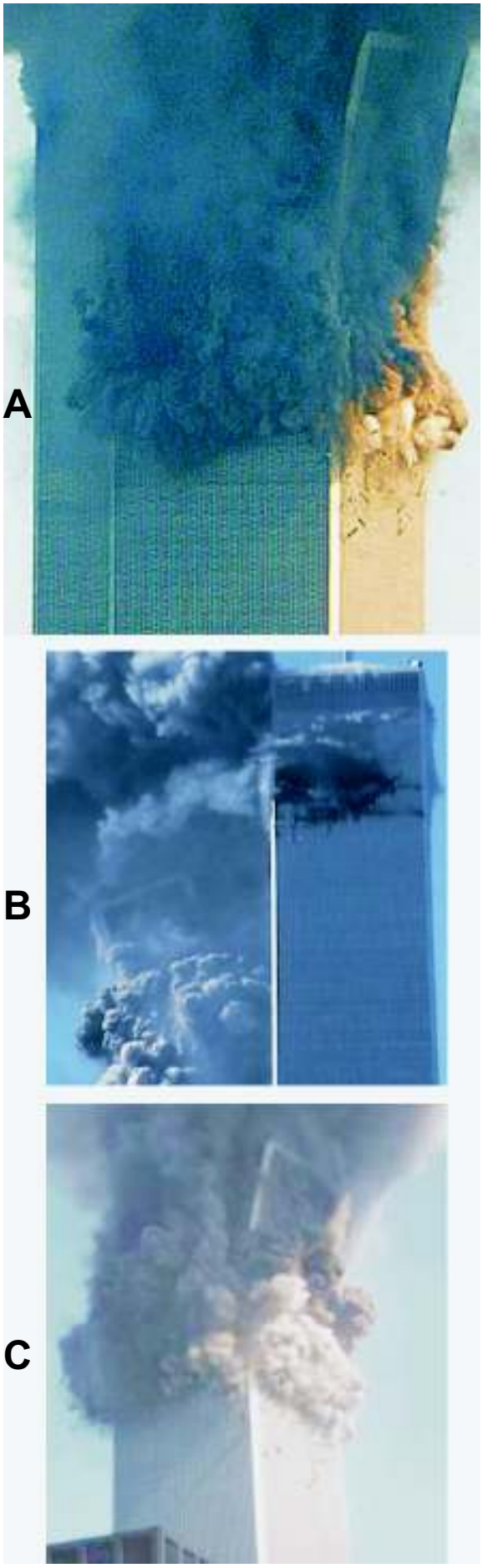
FEMA believes the first floor to break started a chain reaction when it hit the floor below it by breaking the joints holding that floor. This resulted in two floors that were falling, which then broke the floor below them, and so on. FEMA refers to this as *"a pancake-type collapse of successive floors."* (Professor Bazant promoted this Pancake Theory for the North Tower, so maybe FEMA got the idea from him.)

Figure 5-4

Is this what FEMA and Professor Bazant believe happened when they say the floors fell down like pancakes?

What happened to the stack of floors when they hit the basement? What happened to the tower?





AP/Wide World Photo

** Unknown **

** Unknown **

Figure 5-5 *The South Tower tips.*

FEMA does not explain what finally happened to the stack of floors when they hit the basement, so it is up to us to fill in the missing details. Figures 5-4A & 5-4B show my guess at what FEMA's next two diagrams would look like if they had bothered to adequately explain their Pancake Theory. My guess is that the stack of floors broke into pieces and spread out into the basement and onto the ground. I leave it to the readers to guess at what Figure 5-4C would look like.

The top of South Tower cracks and tips

The first visible event in the collapse of the South Tower was the tipping of the top section towards the crash zone (Figure 5-5). This top section is about 300 feet tall. This enormous section begins falling over.

It appears as if the process began when some columns near the crash zone broke or buckled. This is shown in Figure 5-6A as a large crack. (The three vertical, red lines in the center of this tower represent the core columns.) The exterior columns on the other side of the tower were probably intact at that moment in time. The end result was an unbalanced force which caused the upper portion to tip towards the crash zone (Figure 5-6B).

Photographs of this tipping of the South Tower do not support the Pancake Theory. Furthermore, photos of the rubble do not show a pile of flooring anywhere, nor any large pieces of flooring, concrete, or steel trusses. All steel in the trusses broke at their joints, and all the concrete shattered into small particles. The rubble does not even show signs of office desks, furniture, or computers. Why would FEMA claim the collapses of the North and South Tower are similar when photos show them to be different? Why would FEMA claim the floors fell like pancakes when photos show otherwise?

Does the Pancake Theory explain the collapse of the *North* Tower? How would we know when FEMA doesn't bother to adequately explain it? Is FEMA trying to explain the collapse, or are they merely trying to pacify us? Or did somebody interfere with their investigation?

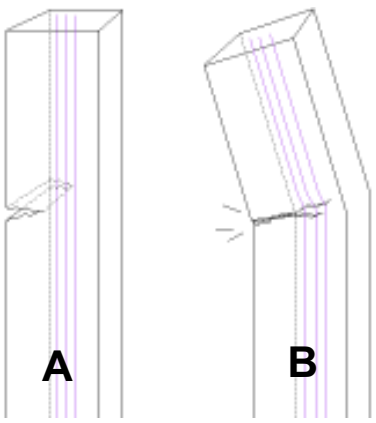


Figure 5-6

The South Tower tipped when columns on one side broke.

The top section is severed from the base

When the tipping first started, the core and exterior columns on the opposite side of the crash zone were intact, so the tower was still in one piece. However, the top section began falling downward almost immediately after the tipping had begun. The only way the top could fall is if all the remaining columns had broken a few moments after the tipping began (or the joints connecting the columns had broken). The top section then became an independent object that fell onto the base (I will refer to the bottom portion as the "base"). I would have expected the top section to fall off and hit the ground (Figure 5-7), but Figures 5-8 and 5-9 show the top section disintegrated at the junction between itself and the base.

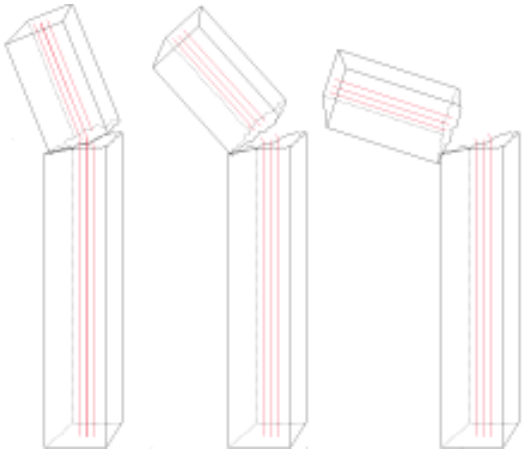


Figure 5-7 *If the columns broke at the crash zone I would expect the top to fall off.*

AP/Wide World Photo

Figure 5-8 *The top section of South Tower is shattering into dust*

Clouds of concrete

Prior to the collapse only small wisps of black smoke were seeping from the tower and rising upward. When the top section began to tip, enormous clouds were expelled horizontally out of the tower, all around the crash zone. These clouds were not the smoke of a fire. Rather, something was occurring inside the tower to create large amounts of powder, and then expel that powder at high velocity. What could the powder be?

The US Geological Survey analyzed the powder on the streets of Manhattan after these buildings collapsed. Their analysis showed the powder to be primarily concrete and gypsum.

What was occurring at the crash zone to convert the concrete and gypsum to powder? Gypsum is a soft material so it is easy to believe that the gypsum was crushed to powder during the collisions of such massive pieces of building, especially the gypsum that was roasted in the fire. However, concrete does not turn to powder very easily, even if it is roasted in a fire.

AP/Wide World Photo

Figure 5-9 *About ½ of the top section of South Tower has shattered*

Figure 5-10 *The top section of the South Tower has tipped to about 22°. The top of the tower is hanging over the base by about 23 meters in this photo.*

Light and dark clouds of concrete

The clouds of dust in Figures 5-8 and 5-9 are almost all the same shade of gray. These clouds are coming from the "back side" of the tower (the side opposite the crash zone). Photos that give a better view of the crash zone (Figure 5-10) show the clouds above the crash zone are dark, and the clouds below are light.

The upper clouds are mixed with the black smoke from the fire, while the lower clouds are pure concrete, gypsum, and whatever else has been pulverized. The white clouds show that the pulverizing process is occurring in the portion of the tower that is below the fire zone. This was the area of the tower that was cool, so the steel and concrete in that area were still at their maximum strength, but the structure shattered anyway.

The disintegration went to the ground

The tilted portion of the tower was about 30 floors tall, so it was massive; Professor Bazant estimated it was 87 million kg.[†] A popular explanation for what happened is that the collision of these two massive structures caused all steel beams to break at their joints and a lot of concrete to shatter into powder. However, while dropping such a massive piece of building onto another building is certain to create incredible destruction, I would expect the top to fall off, as in Figure 5-7.

The top did not fall off; instead, it shattered, as if it were made of talcum powder. In Figure 5-10 the top section has disintegrated to perhaps half its original size. Since the disintegration is occurring only at the junction where the base and the top section are colliding, the people inside the top section were still alive when that photo was taken.

I would expect the disintegration to stop as soon as the top section had completely shattered. After the dust settled I would expect to see a jagged base with a pile of dust and rubble on the top. However, the base did not remain standing; rather, it continued to shatter until the entire structure was gone. Obviously, once the disintegration process got started, nothing was going to stop it.

By the time the photo in Figure 5-10 was taken, millions of kilograms of debris from the top section had fallen onto the base. A popular explanation for why the base disintegrated is that the enormous weight of the debris shattered the floors of the base section, and as each floor shattered, the debris accumulated, making it easier to shatter the next floor.

[†] To understand how large the top section was, a 30 story building that is 63 meters (207 ft) on each side would be considered *enormous* if it were placed in most cities. Yet this was just the upper portion of the South Tower!

The experts don't explain the South Tower

The FEMA diagram of one floor falling down, thereby starting a chain reaction (Figure 5-3B), is how most people explain the collapse of the towers, but this does *not* adequately explain what happened with the South Tower. A floor in the South Tower *may* have fallen onto another floor, but there was more going on inside the South Tower than that.

The floors in the South Tower did not simply "fall down" like a stack of pancakes; rather, every one of the hundreds of columns near the crash zone broke, which caused the top section to tip over and fall down, and then the two sections of tower shattered into powder at the junction between them.

Why do FEMA and other experts promote the Pancake Theory? Why don't the experts explain the *tipping* of the South Tower? Why don't they explain the *powdering* of the concrete? How did the small fires in the South Tower cause hundreds of steel columns to break? If the fires did not cause the tipping, what did? Is the crash of the airplane responsible?

If the experts are baffled by these issues, why are they producing reports that try to convince us that a hot fire caused the collapse? If they cannot explain the collapse, they are not experts, and they should quit promoting themselves as experts.

Professor Bazant explains the South Tower

Professor Bazant is perhaps the only official expert who has bothered to explain the tipping of the South Tower. His diagram is Figure 5-11. According to his theory, the fire heated some of the core columns to such a high temperature that they lost strength and could not hold the weight above them. Those particular columns buckled. This caused the top of the tower to tilt towards the crash zone. The other core columns were still intact and holding onto that top section, thereby preventing it from falling off. However, the fire caused all of the core columns to become soft, so after a brief period of time all other columns buckled in the opposite direction. The end result was that the top section rotated at approximately its center point. After a brief rotation all of the core columns snapped. The rotation stopped at this point and the top section began to fall downward.

I don't think Bazant's theory explains the collapse of the South Tower for two main reasons:

- The photographs do not indicate to me that the top rotated; I see only a tipping motion.
- His theory requires the piece of tower to tip, rotate, and then stop rotation within a second or two, which requires extremely high rates of acceleration and deceleration; i.e., lots of energy.

> While this can easily occur in sketches, I cannot believe it can occur to an 87 million kg structure when the only force acting on it is gravity.

The professor published his theory two days after the attack, so I doubt he saw the photos that are in this book. His theory is probably based on television reports, which are much lower resolution.†

The photos in this book show the top continuously tipping as it fell. The top never rotated, and it never stopped tipping. This follows the laws of physics. As Issac Newton explained, once an 87 million kg object starts to tip, only an equally incredible force in the opposite direction will stop the tipping. But there was no force up there except gravity, so there was nothing to stop the tipping.

The top section is tilted about 22° in Figure 5-10. It tipped a bit more after that, and then it became completely hidden by dust.

Where did the overhanging section go?

Photos show both the top section and the base disintegrated as they collided, but we cannot see what happened at the junction because the clouds of powder block our view.

Figure 5-12 shows what might have been happening behind the powder. Since the top section is tipping over as it drops, about ¼ (by volume) of the top section will never collide with the base. This large section should hit the ground. (It would also hit Building 4, which was directly underneath it.) The overhanging portion was probably more than 20 million kilograms. What happened to that overhanging portion?

The section of Building 4 that was directly under the overhanging section was *completely* crushed, and there is a large pile of rubble in that area. Also, the rubble is full of the columns that were along the outside of the South Tower. This implies that the overhanging section did indeed crush the portion of Building 4 that was under it. A question none of the experts bother to answer is: Did that overhanging section hit Building 4 in one big chunk, as Figure 5-12 shows?

I have not seen any photographs or video that show large chunks of the tower falling down. If a large chunk had fallen, it would have passed out the bottom of the clouds of powder (objects fall faster than powder in an atmosphere). This means that if the overhanging section fell as one large piece, none of the photographers or video cameras caught it as it fell, which is unlikely considering how many people were taking photos at the time. This implies that Figure 5-12 is incorrect.

Photos of the rubble show only short pieces of steel and dust in the area where Building 4 once stood. This means if the overhanging section hit the ground as one large piece, it somehow shattered into dust and small pieces when it hit, and then the pieces scattered in such a manner that nobody realized that a large piece hit.

Figure 5-13 shows another possibility. Perhaps the overhanging section shattered into pieces as the top section collided with the base, even though it never actually contacted the base. This diagram brings up two issues:

- The **contents** of the overhanging section should fall out.

  The office desks, people, computers, and other items in the overhanging section should fall out and land on both the ground and on top of Building 4, rather than fall on top of the base. The tilting probably caused many of the items inside the top section to roll towards the overhanging section, so there should be hundreds of objects in that section.

- Pieces of the overhanging **structure** should fall down.

  About ¼ of the top section was overhanging the base; therefore, when that section disintegrated into pieces, hundreds of steel beams, pieces of concrete, and windows should fall through the air rather than hit the base.

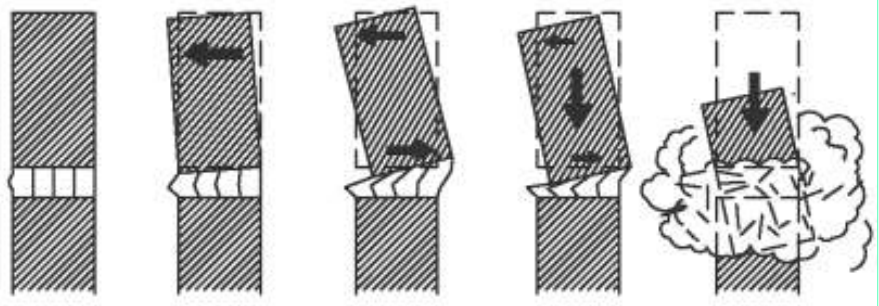


Figure 5-11 *Professor Bazant's diagram of what happened to the South Tower.*

† This should be a lesson to everybody: spend more than two days gathering data before attempting to explain an event that never occurred before, and don't base a theory on TV images.

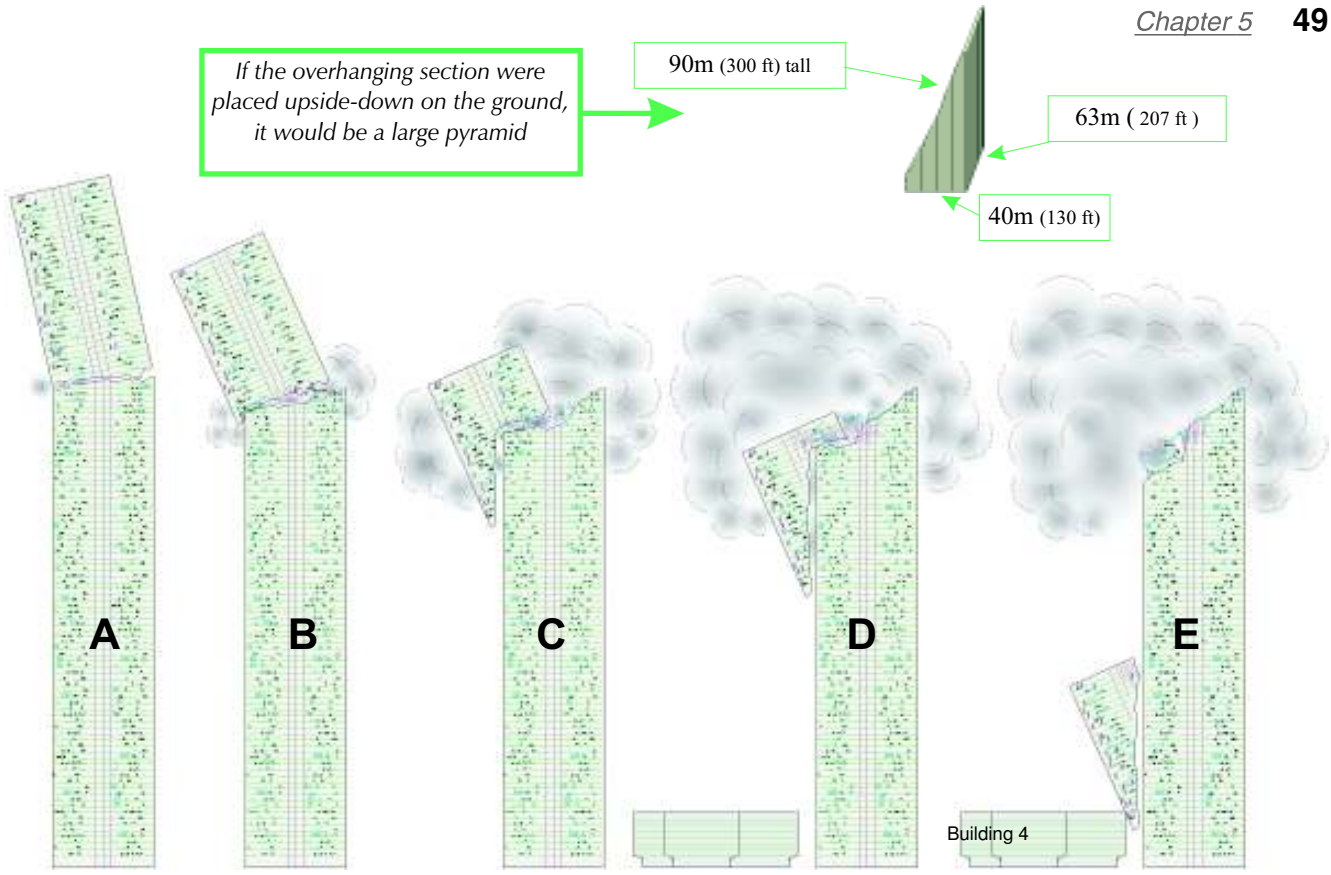


Figure 5-12 *If the top section disintegrated because it collided with the base section, then the portion that was overhanging should have remained as one piece, and then dropped on top of Building 4.*

Since no overhanging section can be seen falling in the photos, and no large piece of the tower was found on top of Building 4, this diagram does not explain what happened.

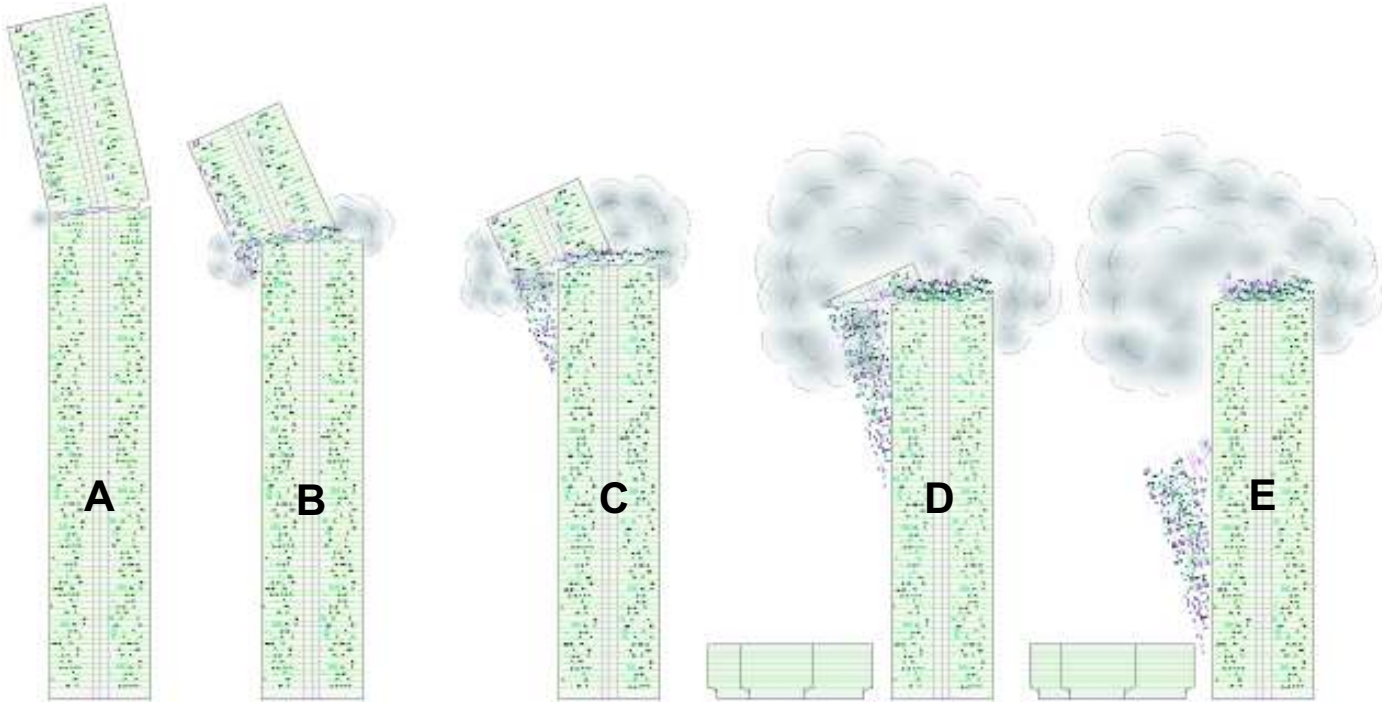


Figure 5-13 *In this diagram the overhanging section shatters. Steel beams, pieces of flooring, and the contents of that section should fall on top of Building 4.*

Since no debris can be seen falling in the photos, this diagram does not explain what happened, either. So what happened to the overhanging section?

Even if the top section was overhanging by only 1/6th, there should be hundreds of pieces of office furniture, computers, people, and steel beams falling through the air. With about 30 floors in that top section, even an overhang as small as 1/10th would drop hundreds of objects.

Furthermore, there were exterior columns every meter along the outside of these towers, so even an overhang as small as 1/20th would cause hundreds of those columns to drop through the air rather than hit the base.

Objects that fall through air will hit the ground first

Objects that fall through air rather than crash into the base would reach a very high velocity. They would be the first objects to hit the ground. Since the top section was overhanging only on one side, the other three sides of the base would have "normal" levels of debris passing out of the dust clouds. Therefore, if Figure 5-13 is correct, photographs will show that one side of the building is dropping hundreds of steel columns, along with a lot of office furniture, carpeting, and people. The side *opposite* the overhanging section should have hardly any debris, and the remaining two sides will have some debris but not nearly as much as the side with the overhang.

However, none of the photographs or video that I have seen show objects falling out of the dust from the side that is overhanging. There is a small amount of debris falling from all four sides, but there is no significant amount coming from the side that is overhanging. Therefore, Figure 5-13 is certainly incorrect. So what happened to that overhanging section? How can 20 million kilograms of steel and concrete vanish? And what happened to the thousands of kilograms of people and office furnishings that were inside that overhanging section?

The Pigpen Theory

Another possible explanation is that the entire overhanging section (as in Figure 5-12), or the debris from the overhanging section (as in Figure 5-13), dragged dust as it fell, and pushed dust ahead of it, thereby remaining hidden behind dust (Figure 5-14). I will call this the "Pigpen Theory" after the character in the *Peanuts* comics who was partially engulfed in a cloud of dust.

If the Pigpen Theory is correct, the 20 million kg of dusty objects from the overhanging section would form a large, wedge-shaped cloud of dust. Figures 5-15 to 5-18 do indeed show a wedge-shaped cloud in the correct location. However, this dusty wedge does not drop any faster than the clouds on the other three sides of the tower. This implies that the other three sides of the tower are also dropping so many dusty objects that the entire tower is surrounded by dusty debris.

The Pigpen Theory explains why the overhanging section cannot be seen, but it creates the dilemma of explaining how the dusty objects could push enough dust *ahead* of themselves to remain completely hidden the entire time they fell. While a comic character can easily push dust ahead of itself, note that in Figure 5-18 a dusty object is falling, but the object is visible to us because the dust is trailing *behind* it, not preceding it. Is it possible for debris to fall in such a manner that dust is *pushed ahead* of the debris?

The South Tower fireworks display

Figures 5-12 to 5-14 could give you the impression that after the top has completely disintegrated, the base will remain standing, and there will be an enormous pile of debris at the top of it. However, subsequent photographs show that the base of the tower did not survive. Rather, by the time top section finished its disintegration, the base portion began disintegrating at an increasingly rapid rate.

The sequence of photographs in Figures 5-15 to 5-20 show the disintegration of the base. The ejection of dust was so extreme that the tower appeared to be a fireworks display.

The overhanging section is towards the left in Figures 5-15 to 5-20, as in the sketches of Figures 5-12 to 5-14. Therefore, the objects that fall out of the overhanging section should be falling along the left side of the tower in these photographs. However, I cannot see any evidence in these photos that *anything* from the overhanging section fell.

Photographs show a few objects falling along all four sides, but Figures 5-12 and 5-13 show that hundreds of *exterior* columns should be falling, not just a few dozen. Also, depending on the degree the overhanging section was tilted, dozens of pieces of *core columns* that were at the top of the overhanging section would have fallen through the air, also. How did all of those massive core columns vanish?

Figure 5-17 shows two, truly heavy objects falling out of the clouds and dragging dust with them. However, both of them are in the wrong area to be from the overhanging section. The overhanging section had 20 million kg of material, but those 20 million kg were *as invisible as the ravaging fires.* This certainly was a strange collapse!

The rubble from the South Tower

When the collapse was over, there was nothing remaining on the ground except short sections of steel beams and a few small pieces of concrete. Almost every piece of steel in both towers broke at the joints. Virtually every piece of concrete shattered into dust. All telephone wires broke

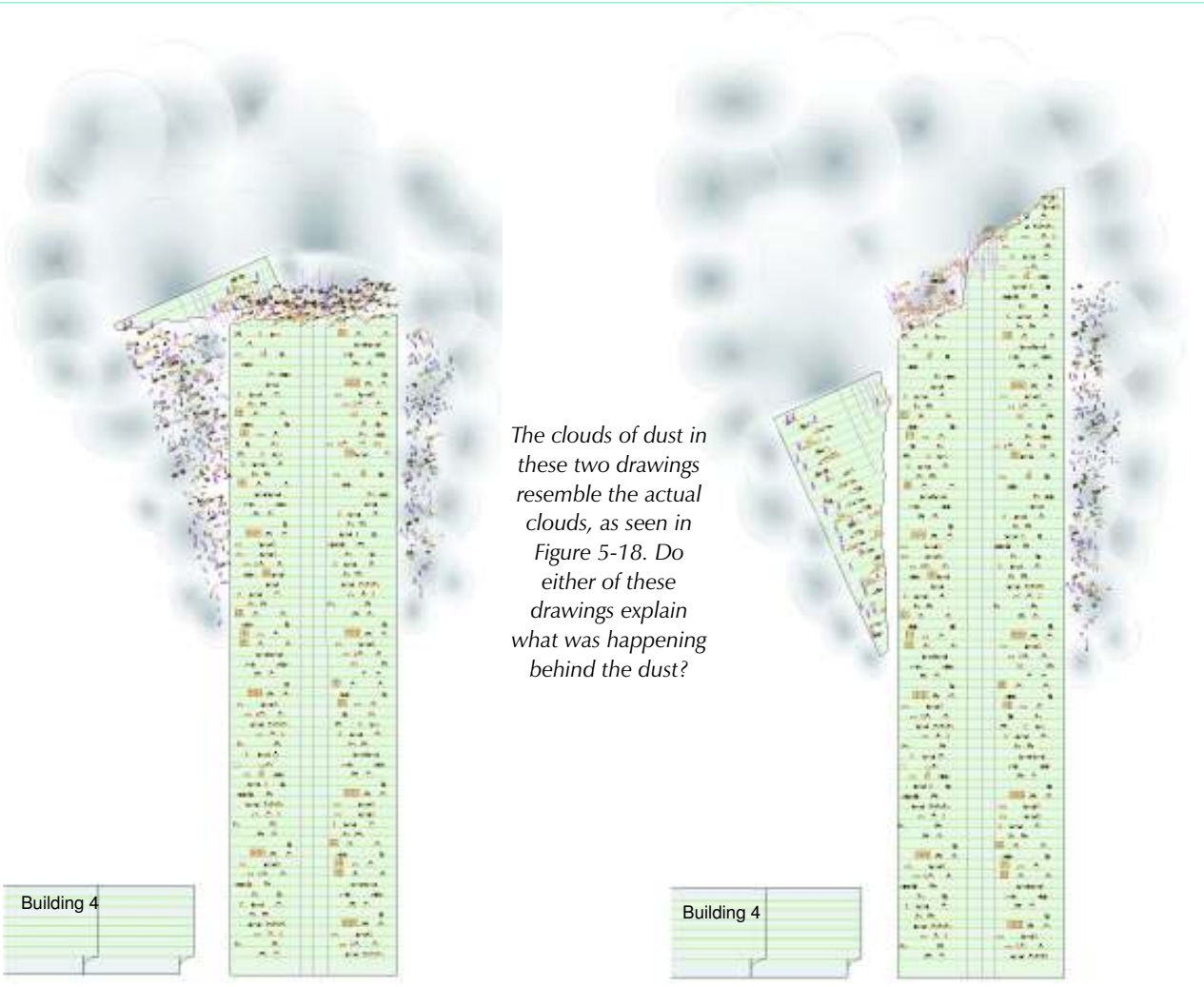
into pieces, and all office furniture shattered. Even the toilets and sinks shattered. All of the corrugated steel sheets that held the concrete floors were shredded into small pieces. Photographs of the rubble do not show any large pieces of anything. Figure 5-19 is a portion of a gigantic photo taken by NOAA from an airplane that flew over the site on September 23rd. Parts of the image seem blurry because smoke and/or steam was still seeping out of the rubble at the time.

As is true of all other photos of the rubble, all we can see is dust and pieces of steel. Also, no section of the rubble resembles a stack of pancakes. Obviously, when these towers collapsed, the tower and every object inside was shredded, pulverized, and/or burned to ash.

Nobody knows exactly how large the overhanging section was, but the dashed rectangle in Figure 5-19 shows its approximate position and size when it reached its maximum tilt. Within that dashed rectangle should be hundreds of office desks, human bodies, computers, and pieces of carpet, in addition to about 20 million kg of tower pieces, but there does not appear to be anything in that area except dust and short pieces of steel.

A proper investigation of the rubble would explain what happened to the overhanging section. The columns at the top of the tower were thinner than the columns at the bottom of the tower, and some columns had markings from the factory, so investigators would be able to deduce which columns came from the overhanging section, and which were from other sections of the tower. This could help us understand what happened to that overhanging section.

Unfortunately, the debris was removed so quickly that nobody had a chance to study it. The photograph in Figure 5-19 was taken 12 days after the collapse, but crews had already removed an enormous amount of the rubble that had landed on top of Building 4. They also removed a lot of the rubble that was part of Building 4 itself. This is why the



The clouds of dust in these two drawings resemble the actual clouds, as seen in Figure 5-18. Do either of these drawings explain what was happening behind the dust?

Figure 5-14 *Did the overhanging section (or its contents) push dust in front of it as it fell, thereby remaining hidden from us the entire time? Is it possible for an object to push dust* ***ahead of itself****?*

Figure 5-15 *This photo shows a level of disintegration that corresponds to Figure 5-12C or Figure 5-13C.*

*The side with the overhanging section should have **thousands** of times as much debris as the other three sides, but somehow the dust is so extreme that 20 millions kilograms of material is hidden at all times.*

Figure 5-16 *The red arrow is pointing to puffs of dust. The significance of the dust will be discussed in Chapter 7*

Figure 5-17 *The red arrows are pointing to objects that have fallen below the clouds. Since these objects fell out of the clouds, why not pieces from the 20 million kg of the overhanging section?*

REUTERS

Figure 5-18 *The red arrow is pointing to the perfectly horizontal base of the dust cloud. The significance of the horizontal base will be discussed in Chapter 7*

NOAA

Figure 5-19 *Photo taken from an airplane on September 23.*

The dashed rectangle below the South Tower and on top of Building 4 is approximately where the overhanging section landed. (See Figures 5-13 and 5-14)

REUTERS

Figure 5-20 *The clouds of dust and debris were ejected to perhaps 3 times the width of the tower*

lower left portion in the outline of Building 4 is lacking rubble.

The North Tower starts to collapse

The North Tower stood stable and motionless for 1 hour and 43 minutes. Photos taken at 10:29 show puffs of dust coming out of the tower along the crash zone, which quickly became horizontal ribbons of dust (Figure 5-21). The ribbons did not rise upwards, as smoke does. Rather, they came out of the windows horizontally, which implies they were forced out due to high pressure. The collapse is occurring at the ribbons of dust, but there are not many flames.

Figure 5-21 *The top of the North Tower has dropped a small amount, which means the entire top section has been severed from the base.*

Time: 0 seconds

Where did the puffs of dust come from?

The official explanation for what happened to the North Tower is that the floor directly above the fire broke and fell down (the Pancake Theory). However, if the floor had cracked into pieces before falling, those pieces would have fallen through the air without blowing smoke out of the windows. This leads us to conclude that the floor did not break into pieces before falling.

Perhaps the floor fell in one large piece. Then, like a piston pushing air in a cylinder, it squeezed smoke out the windows (Figure 5-22). However, if the floor acted like a piston, the air that was pushed *out* of the windows should exactly match the volume of air that rushes *in* to replace the air above the falling floor. Therefore, the photos should show a corresponding vacuum that sucks air into the windows to

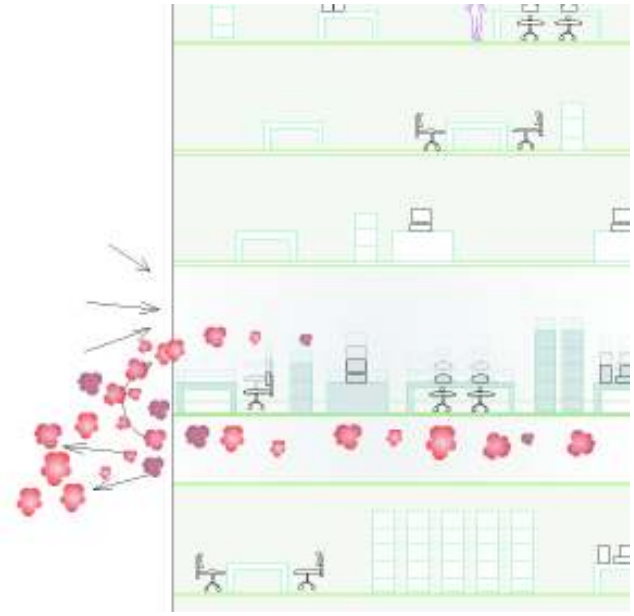


Figure 5-22 *If a floor truly fell down in one piece, dust would be sucked back inside*

Figure 5-23 *1/3 seconds*

Figure 5-24 *2/3 seconds*

** unknown **

replace the air that was forced out. The effect would be the same as a cigarette smoker who blows smoke out of his mouth while inhaling through his nose.

The video shows clouds of dust forced out at a high velocity, but no dust gets sucked back in. Therefore, Figure 5-22 does not explain what is happening in Figure 5-21. While it is possible that a floor actually did fall down like a piston, this particular section of the video is not showing such an event.

It is impossible to realize it by looking at Figure 5-21, but the top of the tower has dropped slightly from its normal height. The only way the top could drop is if the top section has completely separated from the base. This requires *hundreds* of core and external columns to break.

The experts claim that the collapse started when a floor above the fire broke and fell to the floor below it. Perhaps they are correct that the very first event in the collapse was the breaking of joints that held up a floor. However, at 10:29 the entire top section of the North Tower had been severed from the base and began falling down. If the first event was the falling of a floor, how did that progress to the severing of hundreds of columns?

Figure 5-27 shows the columns that held up the top section have broken. As the top section collided with the base, it disintegrated into dust. Ribbons of dust and smoke were squeezed out of the junction at a high velocity. A vacuum would be created at the top of the tower rather than near the crash zone. This would explain why dust was blown out of the crash zone but none of that dust was sucked back inside.

The airplane crashed into the 96th floor, so there were approximately 15 floors in this top section. (A 15 story building that is 200 feet on each side is *enormous* but it seems small in these photos because the tower was so large. When looking at Figures 5-21 to 5-26 it is easy to forget that

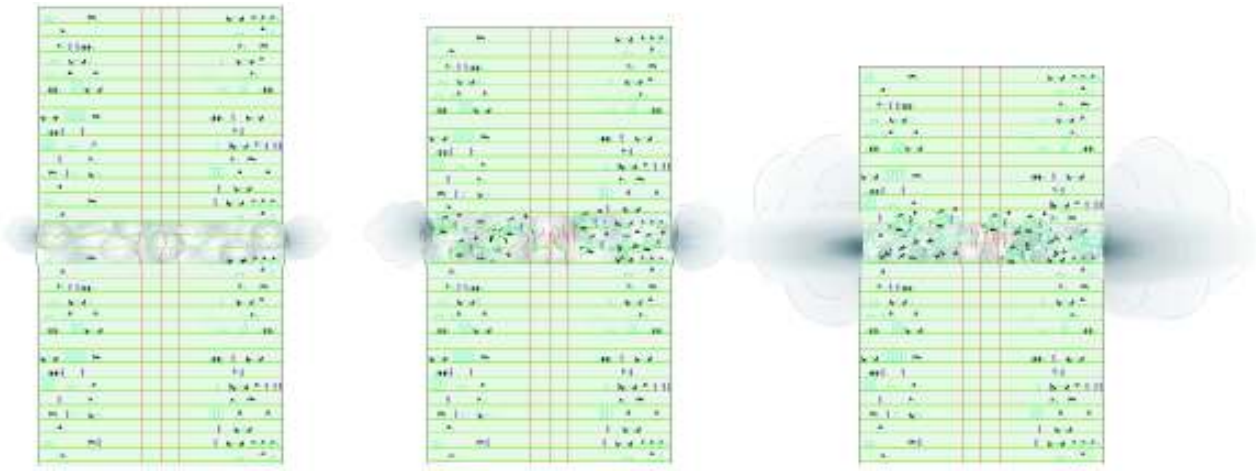


Figure 5-27 *The top of the North Tower fell down without tipping. This required* ***hundreds*** *of columns to break in a balanced manner. Then, after breaking, the top fell down onto the base, shattering into dust in the process. Why would a steel structure shatter after falling such a short distance?*

Figure 5-25 *1 ½ seconds*

Figure 5-26 *2 seconds*

we are viewing the disintegration of *millions* of kilograms of steel and concrete.)

Flames appear in the dust as the top section fell. Perhaps flames that were deep inside the tower were blown out the windows, which brought them into our view. Or perhaps the smoldering material inside the tower bursts into flames when it was pushed outside and finally reached enough oxygen to burn properly.

Photos show the top of the tower fell downward without any tilting motion. If the columns on one side of the tower had broken before the columns on the other side, the top section would have tilted, as occurred with the South Tower. Since there was no tilting of the North Tower, every column in the crash zone broke in a perfectly balanced manner, as illustrated in Figure 5-27.

There were 47 columns in the interior and 236 columns along the outside. Since the crash zone of the North Tower was near the 96th floor, the columns in this area were thinner than the columns near the ground level. However, they were still so thick that it would require a significant amount of energy to break them. How did the fire break so many columns? Did one column break, which then caused another column to break, and so on? If so, it is an amazing coincidence that the columns separated and/or snapped in such a perfectly balanced manner that the top never tilted.

Figure 5-28 *The North Tower is starting to spew streamers of debris. The red arrow points to a large plume that is almost horizontal. What force was blowing debris such a distance?*

For now let's just assume that the fire heated all the core columns to approximately the same temperature, and then they all snapped about the same time. Once those core columns snapped, the exterior columns were no longer able to hold the weight above them, and they all snapped at nearly the same moment in time. This caused the top section to become an independent object, and it fell down onto the base.

Regardless of what caused the top section to separate, it fell only a few feet to the base, so when it hit the base it would be traveling at a low speed. Why didn't it simply break a few floors, bend a few steel beams, and then come to rest on top of the base? Why did it disintegrate into dust at the junction? And how did it start a chain reaction that caused the entire tower to shatter? (Figures 5-28 and 5-29) What was occurring at the junction to create such large volumes of dust? Were these towers unusually fragile? Was the concrete defective? Or is this the way all steel buildings behave after airplanes crash into them?

The North Tower fireworks display

After perhaps a second of collapsing, the North Tower became another monochrome fireworks display, spewing

Figure 5-29 *The tower is 63 meters (207 ft) wide. The red arrow points to pieces of the tower that have been thrown* ***at least 70 meters****. Why didn't the pieces simply* ***fall down****? Why were they* ***ejected*** *with such force?*

dust hundreds of feet from the towers. As with the South Tower, all parts of the building turned into dust and short pieces of steel before any of it hit the ground.

Fires break out in Building 7

CNN and other news agencies have a time line of events on September 11, and they report Building 7 on fire at 4:10 PM, but FEMA and some newspaper reports claim fires burned for 7 hours, and one report claims 8 hours. Since everybody agrees that Building 7 collapsed at 5:20 PM, if the fires burned for 7 hours, that means the fire started about 10:30 in the morning. The North Tower collapsed at 10:29, so this implies the collapse of the North Tower caused fires to break out in Building 7.

The FEMA report contains photographs of Building 7 that were taken shortly after the collapse of the North Tower, and the photographs show a small amount of damage to the exterior of Building 7 as a result of flying debris. However, FEMA has no idea how this small amount of damage started fires inside the building. There were other buildings near the North and South Towers that were also damaged by debris, but they did not suffer catastrophic fires or collapses. Why would Building 7 be any different?

What was burning in Building 7?

Did the diesel fuel inside Building 7 have anything to do with the fires? There is so much secrecy about Building 7 that you may not be surprised to learn that nobody has an explanation for *what* was burning. Some people suspect the diesel fuel was burning, but nobody can explain *how* the fuel caught on fire. The FEMA report even admits in several places that they have no idea what happened:

> *The specifics of the fires in WTC 7 and how they caused the building to collapse remain unknown at this time.*

Their remark that the fires and collapse is *"unknown at this time"* implies that at some later time they may figure it out. However, by the time they published their report, all the rubble for Building 7 was gone. Therefore, they knew there was no possible way they could analyze the rubble and explain what caused the building to collapse. They would have been more honest if they had written their statement as follows:

> *The specifics of the fires in Building 7 and how they caused the building to collapse are unknown, and will never be known because all the evidence has been destroyed. Case closed.*

The FEMA report avoids mentioning that all of the rubble was destroyed. Instead, they create the impression that they are still investigating, and that a future report will fill in the missing details. On the title page of their report, in a very large size is: *"Data Collection, Preliminary Observations, And Recommendations."* The remark about the *preliminary* observations implies that there will be *final* observations later on. But FEMA knew there would be no final report.

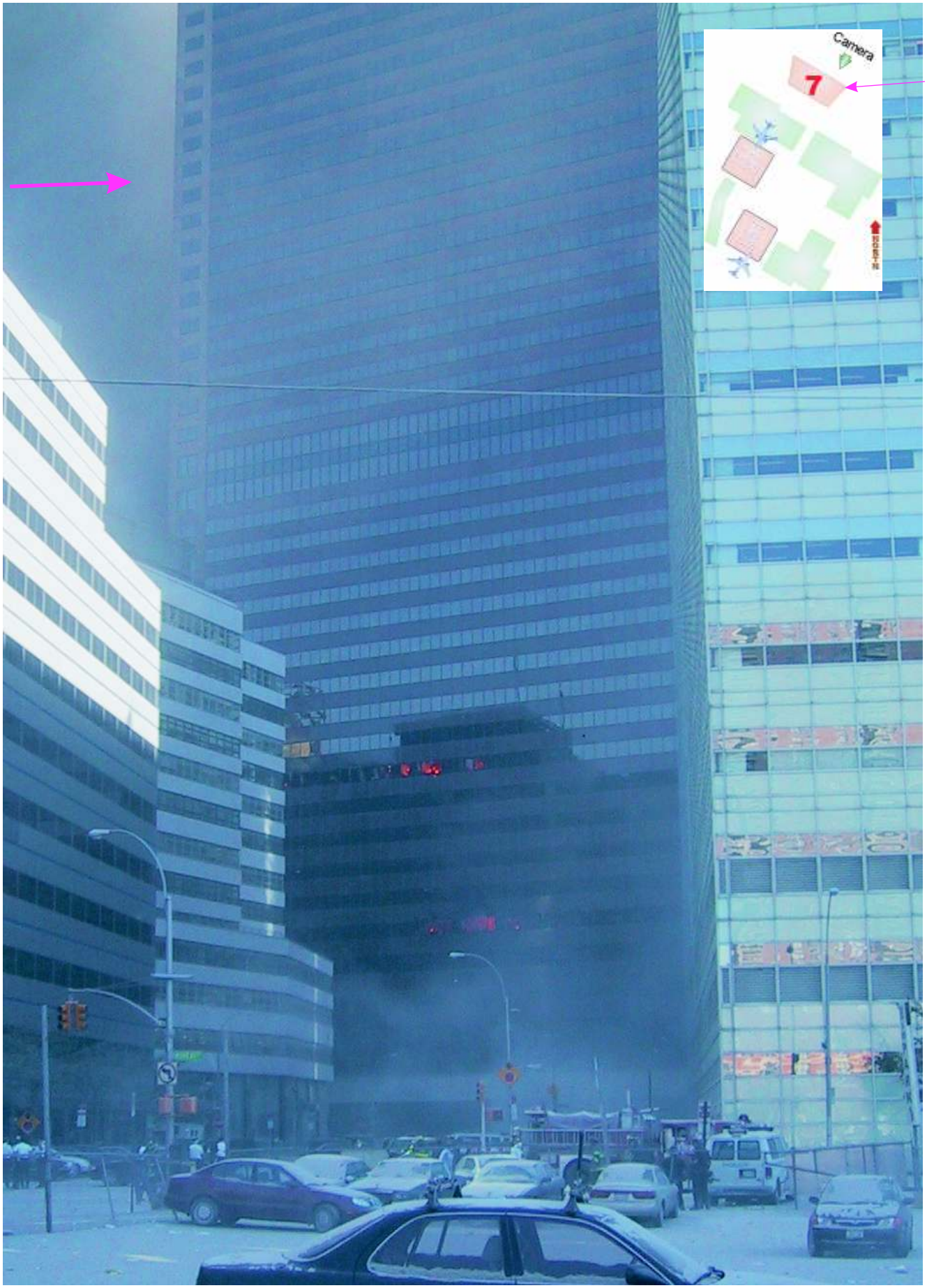
Some people assume that the diesel fuel inside this building caught on fire. The FEMA report mentions that about 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel was recovered after the collapse because several tanks survived intact and still contained their fuel. However, thousands of gallons were missing, so a lot of fuel may have burned. But how did the diesel fuel catch on fire? The tanks were surrounded by fireproof enclosures, and the pipelines were protected by a double-wall steel pipe. If the fireproofing and the double-wall pipe protected the diesel fuel, that means the fire started in something else. Was there other flammable material in that building that nobody wants to admit to?

The nearly invisible fires in Building 7

Figure 5-30 shows the rear of Building 7. The front of Building 7 (where the main entrance was located) faced the North Tower. The North Tower would be directly on the other side of the building in this photograph (also in photos Figures 5-31 to 5-33). The front of Building 7 has some broken windows and other minor damage from falling debris, but the sides and rear of the building have no damage and only a few fires.

Every photo taken of Building 7 shows only a few tiny fires in only a few windows. The fires appear so insignificant that I would expect the sprinkler system to put them out. Since these fires were burning all afternoon, the sprinkler system had plenty of time to spray water on them. Was the sprinkler system defective? Of course, if diesel fuel was burning, the sprinkler system would not be able extinguish the fires. Or, if they were magnesium fires, or fires from an experimental weapon system, the sprinkler system would not do much good, either.

The firemen also had many hours to extinguish these fires, so why didn't they? Since hundreds of firemen were killed when the towers collapsed, it is possible that there were not enough firemen remaining to deal with Building 7. Or perhaps the firemen – who had complained about the dangers of Building 7 – were afraid to go into that building because of the giant transformers, 13,800 volts, and tanks of diesel fuel.



Courtesy of Terry Schmidt

Figure 5-30 *The fires in Building 7 at 3pm. The red arrows point to east edge of Building 7; the west edge cannot be seen. The only fires are on the 7th and 12th floors (in the reflection of a smaller building).*

Building 7 collapses

At 5:20 in the evening the building suddenly collapsed. Figures 5-31 to 5-33 show how the collapse occurred.

Building 7 collapsed in a different manner than the towers. The towers shattered into huge clouds of powder starting near the crash zone and working downward to the ground, causing the towers to resemble fireworks. But Building 7 collapsed at its bottom, causing it to resemble the typical demolition of an old building. While a lot of the concrete in Building 7 turned to powder, this building did not break down as thoroughly as the towers.

Figure 5-34 is the portion of the photo taken by NOAA on September 23 that shows the rubble of Building 7. This building was reduced to a tiny pile of rubble, although large pieces of the exterior survived. Those large sections fell on top the rubble in the manner seen in the photo; i.e., the cleanup crews did not put them into those positions. When Building 7 collapsed, the interior fell first, and that caused the outside of the building to move inward, as if the insides were being sucked out. The result was a very tiny pile of rubble, with the outside of the building collapsing on top of the pile. This is how conventional demolitions operate.

Underneath the pile of rubble are ten giant transformers. If it were not for those transformers, the pile would be even lower to the ground.

Incidently, the electrical power substations are going to be rebuilt in the same location, and a new building will be put over them, creating the same situation as before. However, reports have not yet specified whether this new building will also contain 42,000 gallons of diesel fuel and the CIA.

Incredible fires should be visible

The fire in Building 7 was supposedly so extreme that it caused a steel building to crumble. However, all photos show only a few tiny fires in only a few windows, and only tiny amounts of smoke were produced.

I would think that a fire of the magnitude necessary to collapse a steel building would have set fire to a lot of the office furniture, carpeting, and other flammable objects. This in turn would have caused a lot of flames to be visible in a lot of windows. Also, such a large fire would produce a lot of smoke. I also suspect that such a large fire would have caused many windows to shatter. How could an incredible fire burn in the building without any photos showing evidence of large flames or tremendous plumes of smoke?

Compare the fires in Building 7 to the fires in Buildings 4, 5, or 6 (Figure 6-2). The fires in Building 7 were so small that you could safely roast marshmallows over them. Apparently, the smaller the fire, the more destructive it is!

Somebody knew Building 7 would collapse

Tom Franklin, the photographer who took the famous "Iwo Jima flag raising" photo on September 11th, was near Building 7 at about 4 PM. In his description of how that photograph came about, he makes an interesting remark about Building 7:

> *"Firemen evacuated the area as they prepared for the collapse of Building Seven.*
>
> *We were catching our breath, drinking water and juice, when I decided to walk back toward the debris. It was between 4 and 5 p.m.*
>
> *I would say I was 150 yards away when I saw the firefighters raising the flag."*

Franklin's remarks shows that somebody told the firemen by about 4 to 5pm to stay away from Building 7 because *it was going to collapse.* Franklin obeyed and walked away from the area, but he did not bother to take photos of the raging fires. How could he walk away from a 47-story building that was engulfed in flames and about to collapse on him without taking a few photos? He should have been able to feel the heat on his head. How could he ignore the first fire ever to destroy a steel building? Or did Franklin look at Building 7 but not see any flames?

Several people took photos of the side and rear of the building because they saw a few flames, but apparently nobody took a photo of the front of the building. I suppose there was *not even one flame* on the front side.

More interesting, what evidence could anybody have that Building 7 would collapse? Considering that no fire had ever caused the collapse of a steel building before, why would anybody believe Building 7 would crumble from a few tiny fires? Who were those people who told the firemen to stay away?

New business opportunity: *Fire Demolitions, Inc.*

If our government and university professors are correct that a fire can cause a building to collapse in the exact same manner as a demolition company destroys buildings with explosives, then I would like to start a new business: the *Fire Demolition Company, Inc*. This company will demolish buildings by setting a few small fires inside, rather than by installing hundreds of packages of explosives. A demolition by fire will be significantly less expensive than a demolition by explosives. It is also quicker. For example, *Fire Demolition Inc.*, can take down a 110 story building in 56 minutes simply by setting a few small fires on a few floors. By comparison, a conventional demolition company would spend days just wiring the building with explosives.

All three of these Bldg 7 photos seem to be by Roberto Rabanne

Figure 5-31
According to FEMA, this shows Building 7 as it begins to collapse, at 5:30 PM

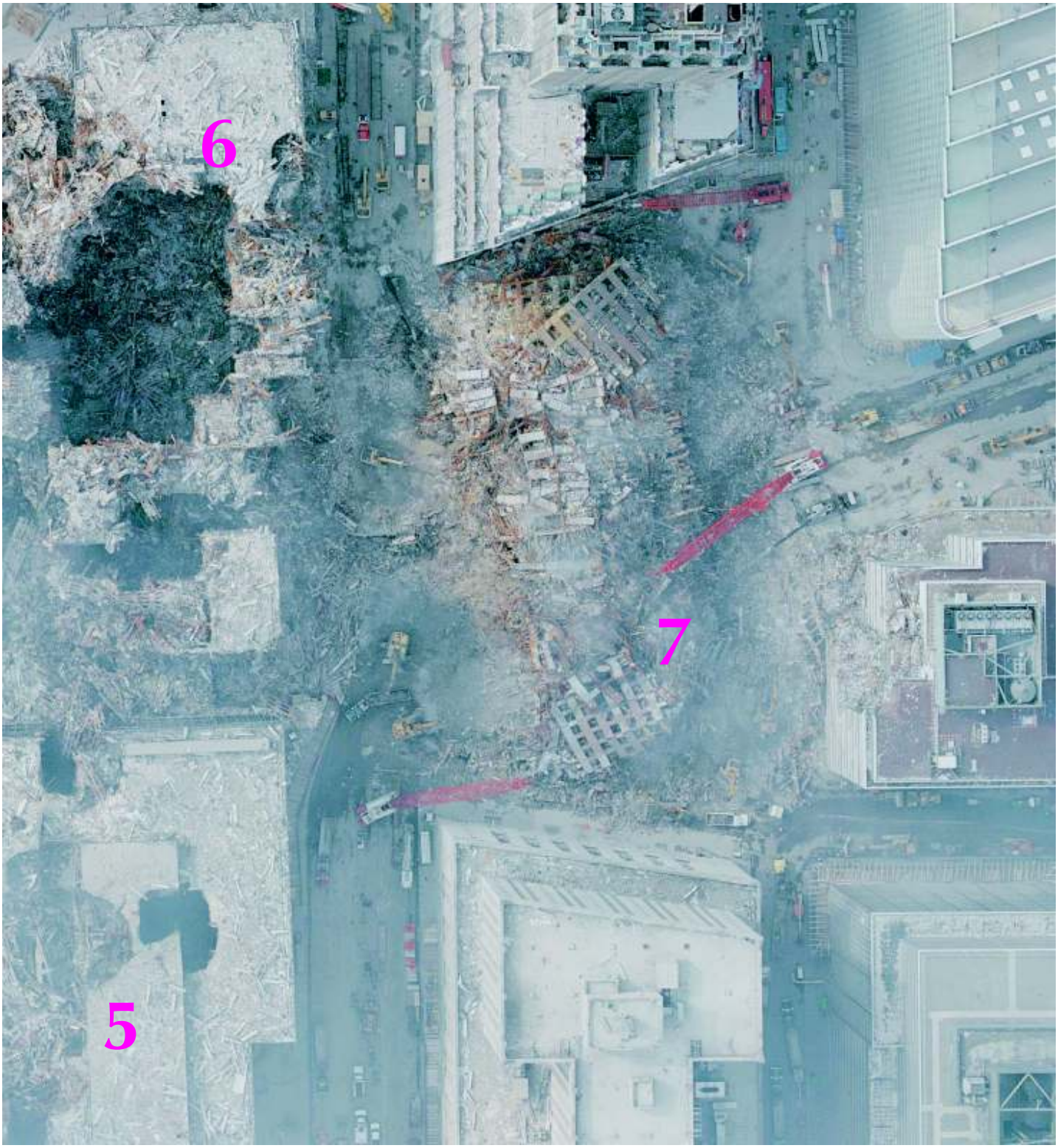
Unlike the towers, but like a conventional demolition, this building crumbled at the ground.

Most of the dust was produced at the ground, rather than high up in the air.

Where is the fire that is causing this building to collapse?

Figure 5-32 *A few seconds after Figure 5-31*

Figure 5-33 *A few seconds after Figure 5-32*



NOAA

Figure 5-34 *The rubble of Building 7 is in the center. Figure 5-19 is another portion of this same photo.*

Large pieces of the exterior fell on top of the rubble, as if the insides were sucked out. This is how a conventional demolition works.

Is it a coincidence that a nearly invisible fire caused this building to collapse in exactly the same manner as demolition companies get rid of old buildings?