



*Figure 7-17 Buckling damage at top of column on floor 23 of 90 West Street.*

During the afternoon of September 11, following collapse of WTC 1 and WTC 2, rumors were spread that One Liberty was in imminent danger of collapse. This was due to a report by an untrained observer that the building face appeared to be moving or leaning.

The majority of damage incurred at One Liberty consisted of broken window glass and frames. Most of that broken glass was in the lower six floors of the west-facing elevation, with less breakage on the floors above. There was, however, some broken glass on the north- and south-facing elevations as well. At those elevations, most of the broken glass was located at floors 1 through 6. There were approximately 550 broken lites of glass, and approximately 200 frames were damaged beyond repair.

On September 12, there was a persistent rumor that One Liberty was still in danger of collapse. The building was inspected by structural engineers conducting building surveys and safety evaluations of buildings around the WTC site. The building vertical alignment was measured with a transit to determine whether any lateral drift had occurred along the height of the building. Three locations on the west face were evaluated, and no apparent movement was observed in the building. The One Liberty Plaza building was determined to be safe, except for dangers related to broken glass.

Statements were released about the safety of the building, but the rumors persisted on September 13. To stop the rumors and convince the public of the building's safety, DDC surveyors continuously monitored the building and engineers inspected each floor. When a piece of glass fell off One Liberty during the afternoon, it was rumored to be a partial collapse. The findings of the engineers and surveyors concerning the structural safety of One Liberty were reported on the nightly news, and the rumors stopped.