

was possible to confirm that the spacing visible between the building edge and the first column to the right of the debris was consistent with its assignment as Column 20.



Figure 5-63. Enlargement of the lower part of the southwest corner of WTC 7 from Figure 5-62, with certain features identified. The intensity levels have been adjusted.

In Figure 5-49, the area to the immediate right of Column 20 on the 11th and 12th floors appeared dark, as if it was an opening, while the higher floors were hidden by smoke. However, it is clear from Figure 5-63 that the columns between Column 20 and Column 23 were intact on the 11th through 14th floors, along with the spandrel beams and at least part of the granite cladding on the 12th through 14th floors. In Figure 5-49, the granite cladding appears to be damaged below the 13th floor near Column 23.

In Figure 5-63, the area between corner Column 15 and Column 20 appears to be open over the 11th floor to the 15th floor. Closer inspection reveals what appear to be two columns (marked with arrows) in the opening. They are located near the positions expected for Columns 16 and 19. These columns are not parallel to the building edge or Columns 20 to 23. The top of the visible section of Column 19 is bent inward toward the west, and the bottom of Column 16 is bent in the same direction. In Figure 5-49, there is a straight edge visible near the expected location for Column 19 on Floors 9 and 10 that appears to have been pushed towards Column 20. There are no signs of Columns 17 or 18 in Figure 5-63.

Damage to the Southwest Corner

Evidence shows that there was extensive structural damage to the southwest corner of the building, and in particular the corner Column 15, from the 17th floor down to the 7th floor. The indications of damage on the southwest corner of WTC 7 in Figure 5-63 are more clearly seen in the following figures.

Figure 5-64 shows a photograph of WTC 7 shot from a helicopter between 2:15 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. Damage is visible low on the southwest corner of the building. This area has been enlarged in Figure 5-65, and arrows and numbers have been added that identify the floors corresponding to given rows of windows.