

The image shows considerable damage to the southwest corner, starting at the 17th floor and extending downward to at least the 8th floor. Below the 17th floor, the corner of the building appears to be missing. At a minimum, the granite cladding and its supports have been removed. Figure 5–66 shows a photograph taken at 12:48 p.m. from West Street showing the same area of WTC 7 and an enlargement of the southwest corner. In this image, it is clear that the corner granite has been removed, and it appears that the corner Column 15 (Figure 5–20 and Figure 5–26) has been exposed, but is still in place down to the 12th floor. This column was located just behind the southwest corner. The dull color of the steel indicates that its insulation had been stripped away.



Figure 5–66. Photographs showing the southwest corner of WTC 7, shot from West Street at 12:47:40 p.m.

The intensity levels have been adjusted, and floor labels have been added. The area of the corner is enlarged on the right.

A second aerial photograph (Figure 5–67) provides a partial view of the damaged area from a closer location and a less oblique angle than those in Figure 5–64 and Figure 5–65. The damaged area from this photograph is enlarged in Figure 5–68 with floor numbers indicated. In this image, the end of the horizontal member at the base of the 17th floor windows can be seen clearly, and there is no indication that Column 15 is attached to it.

In Figure 5–65, it can be seen that damage to the corner of the 14th floor extends further along the west wall than on higher floors. It is clear in Figure 5–68 that the corner at this floor had been pushed inward,