

In Figure 5–66, the southwest corner is not visible below the 13th floor. In Figure 5–65, the corner column certainly appears to be absent from the 12th floor down to the 9th floor. Closer inspection of this image provides strong evidence that this is the case. The southwest corner area of WTC 7 from Figure 5–64 is enlarged further in Figure 5–69, and circles and arrows have been added indicating features discussed in the following paragraphs.

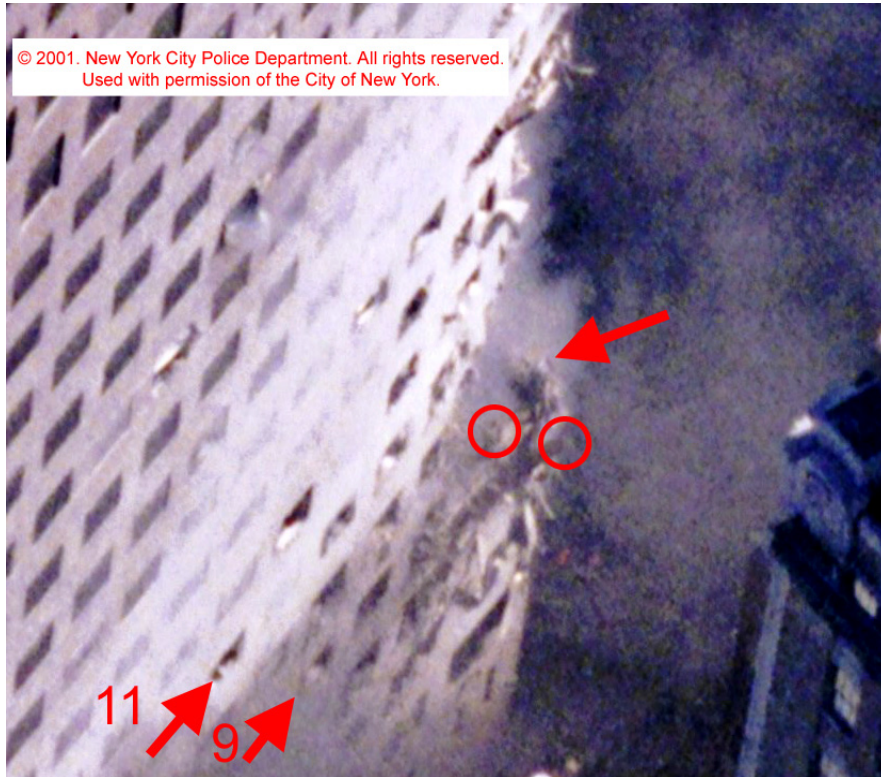


Figure 5–69. Enlargement of an area from the photograph in Figure 5–64 showing the damaged southwest corner of WTC 7.

The image intensity has been adjusted and arrows and floor numbers have been added for the corresponding rows of windows. The circles and arrow indicate features discussed in the text.

The circles and arrow in Figure 5–69 indicate features that appear to be the tops of columns, where the upper column sections have been dislodged or severed. Though barely resolved, it is possible to make out the flanges on the top and bottom of the wide flange spandrel steel beams that joined the columns on the 9th floor. By comparing the depth of the horizontal structure on the 9th floor with that on the floor immediately below, it is clear that its width was much narrower. This is because the depth of the exposed spandrel beam was roughly 0.9 m (3 ft), while the granite spandrel covers and their supporting trusses spanned 1.9 m (6 ft 2 in.).

The right circle in Figure 5–69 encloses the end of a column near the corner that appears to have been dislodged from the steel spandrel and pushed outward. The arrow in the image points to a third object near the corner that also appears to be a column that has been cut off. In this case, the column is located close to the corner, suggesting that it is corner Column 15. If correct, the spacings indicate that the two circled locations are Columns 14 and 14A. It was important to determine whether it was reasonable to have observed three severed columns at this location. The design drawings indicate that two story steel