

Part III An in-depth look at conspiracist claims about WTC 7

This section comprises excerpts from my *Loose Change Viewer Guide*, an update of which is a work in progress. I've deleted most of the first responder quotes, which we've seen above, but there may be some other duplication of information here.

This was extracted from a larger paper entitled:

World Trade Center Building 7 and the Lies of the 9/11 "Truth Movement"

Did firefighters abandon their fallen brothers to help real estate developer Larry Silverstein demolish a skyscraper?

Conspiracist Alex Jones and other 9/11 "Truth Movement" leaders gather at Ground Zero and accuse Silverstein of murder and FDNY heroes of heinous crimes, lies and cover-ups.

Do their claims stand up to examination?

By Mark Roberts email: nyctours@gmail.com October, 2006

Part III An in-depth look at conspiracist claims about WTC 7

This section comprises excerpts from my *Loose Change Viewer Guide*, an update of which is a work in progress. I've deleted most of the first responder quotes, which we've seen above, but there may be some other duplication of information here.

Essential reading: NIST's WTC 7 Interim Report: <http://tinyurl.com/klmvd>

NIST's final report on WTC 7 is due out in early 2007. Why hasn't this report been completed? From the NIST [FAQ](#):

When NIST initiated the WTC investigation, it made a decision not to hire new staff to support the investigation. After the June 2004 progress report on the WTC investigation was issued, the NIST investigation team stopped working on WTC 7 and was assigned full-time through the fall of 2005 to complete the investigation of the WTC towers. With the release and dissemination of the report on the WTC towers in October 2005, the investigation of the WTC 7 collapse resumed. Considerable progress has been made since that time, including the review of nearly 80 boxes of new documents related to WTC 7, the development of detailed technical approaches for modeling and analyzing various collapse hypotheses, and the selection of a contractor to assist NIST staff in carrying out the analyses. It is anticipated that a draft report will be released by early 2007.

The current NIST working collapse hypothesis for WTC 7 is described in the June 2004 Progress Report on the Federal Building and Fire Safety Investigation of the World Trade Center Disaster (Volume 1, page 17, as well as Appendix L), as follows:

- An initial local failure occurred at the lower floors (below floor 13) of the building due to fire and/or debris-induced structural damage of a critical column (the initiating event) which supported a large-span floor bay with an area of about 2,000 square feet
- Vertical progression of the initial local failure occurred up to the east penthouse, and as the large floor bays became unable to redistribute the loads, it brought down the interior structure below the east penthouse; and
- Triggered by damage due to the vertical failure, horizontal progression of the failure across the lower floors (in the region of floors 5 and 7 that were much thicker and more heavily reinforced than the rest of the floors) resulted in a disproportionate collapse of the entire structure.

This hypothesis may be supported or modified, or new hypotheses may be developed, through the course of the continuing investigation. NIST also is considering whether hypothetical blast events could have played a role in initiating the collapse. While NIST has found no evidence of a blast or controlled demolition event, NIST would like to determine the magnitude of hypothetical blast scenarios that could have led to the structural failure of one or more critical elements.

Announcement of NIST's Award of a contract to ARA for failure analysis work on WTC 7: <http://tinyurl.com/emnw4>

Essential reading: FEMA's WTC 7 report: http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/fema403_ch5.pdf

There are glaring flaws with the idea that WTC 7 was brought down by explosives. Many of these points will be examined in detail below.

The building suffered severe structural damage from the debris from the north tower collapse. Firemen described a gaping hole in the south face. We will see glimpses of south face damage through the smoke in photos below and will see clear images of the massive damage to the southwest corner.

No one reports having seen work that might involve the planting of demolitions charges. I'm not aware of anyone who has provided a rational explanation of how this work might have been done and remained unobserved, before, during, and after the building's collapse. An employee of Solomon Smith Barney who worked in WTC 7 says,

I actually worked at WTC7 and was there on 9-11. From the minute the first plane hit the towers, WTC7 was getting hit with debris.

In fact, when I finally got down to the lobby 45 minutes later, we were all forced to leave through the back since so much debris had hit the building and blocked the entrance.

I also would love to have someone tell me how the 28-44th floors were wired for demolition, when we packed like sardines after the merger with Smith Barney and most floors had people on them 7 days a week. (A few floors were trading floors so it was 24x7 and many worked 6-7 days a week), and I never saw one construction crew in my time there doing anything significant.

Why won't CT's talk to people who worked at WTC7? My friends and I who worked with at Salomon are eager to talk but I'm guessing you won't like the answers.

<http://tinyurl.com/n5xap>

Some CTs contend that WTC 7 was demolished to conceal sensitive information that was stored there by some of its tenants. This is one of the silliest of all 9/11 CT claims. Sure: whenever I have information on my hard drives or documents that I don't want anyone to get their hands on, I always wire my building with explosives, set it on fire, and blow it up. In addition, keep in mind that information was recovered from many computer hard drives found in the WTC rubble. <http://tinyurl.com/nmgmc> Investigators were keen to have this information, to trace any transactions that may have indicated foreknowledge of the attacks. As the 9/11 Commission report details, these transactions turned out to not have suspicious origins. http://tinyurl.com/k659n_pg.145-152

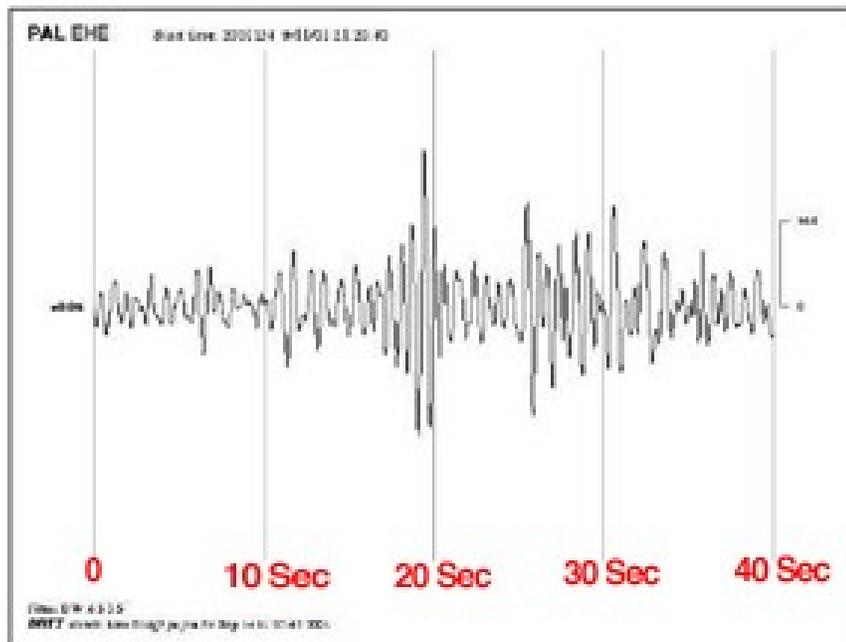
Fires raged uncontrolled on many floors for hours. Lack of hydrant pressure due to broken water mains left firemen nearly helpless to extinguish the blazes.

The building was visibly bulging and was making groaning noises: when a steel-framed building does that it's in very serious trouble. Reports of the damage from firefighters inside and outside of the building are consistent.

Demolitions experts who saw WTC 7 collapse from nearby neither saw nor heard anything indicating an explosive demolition.

Nothing can be seen or heard in videos that resembles explosive charges going off before the collapse. See below.

Seismic data from multiple sources indicates that, as with the Twin Towers, the collapse of WTC 7 began slowly, completely unlike an explosive demolition but consistent with internal failures leading to global collapse.



Source: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Any detonation of explosives within WTC 7 would have been detected by multiple seismographs monitoring ground vibration in the general area. No such telltale “spike” or vibratory anomaly was recorded by any monitoring instrument. –Brent Blanchard of Protec <http://tinyurl.com/z6zyc>

Explosive demolitions would not be very controlled, or likely to work at all, if they involved slamming tons of skyscraper debris through a building and then setting it on fire for seven hours. Precision explosives, timers, and wiring don't like that sort of treatment.

Details of damage to WTC 7 from the tower collapses

NIST's lead investigator Shyam Sunder weighs in on the damage to WTC 7:

Many conspiracy theorists point to FEMA's preliminary report, which said there was relatively light damage to WTC 7 prior to its collapse. With the benefit of more time and resources, NIST researchers now support the working hypothesis that WTC 7 was far more compromised by falling debris than the FEMA report indicated. "The most important thing we found was that there was, in fact, physical damage to the south face of building 7," NIST's Sunder tells PM. **"On about a third of the face to the center and to the bottom--approximately 10 stories--about 25 percent of the depth of the building was scooped out."** NIST also discovered previously undocumented damage to WTC 7's upper stories and its southwest corner. <http://tinyurl.com/j7vrn>

Here's the area of major debris damage from the tower collapses (source: FEMA)



NIST's Estimate of damage to WTC 7's south and southwest sides

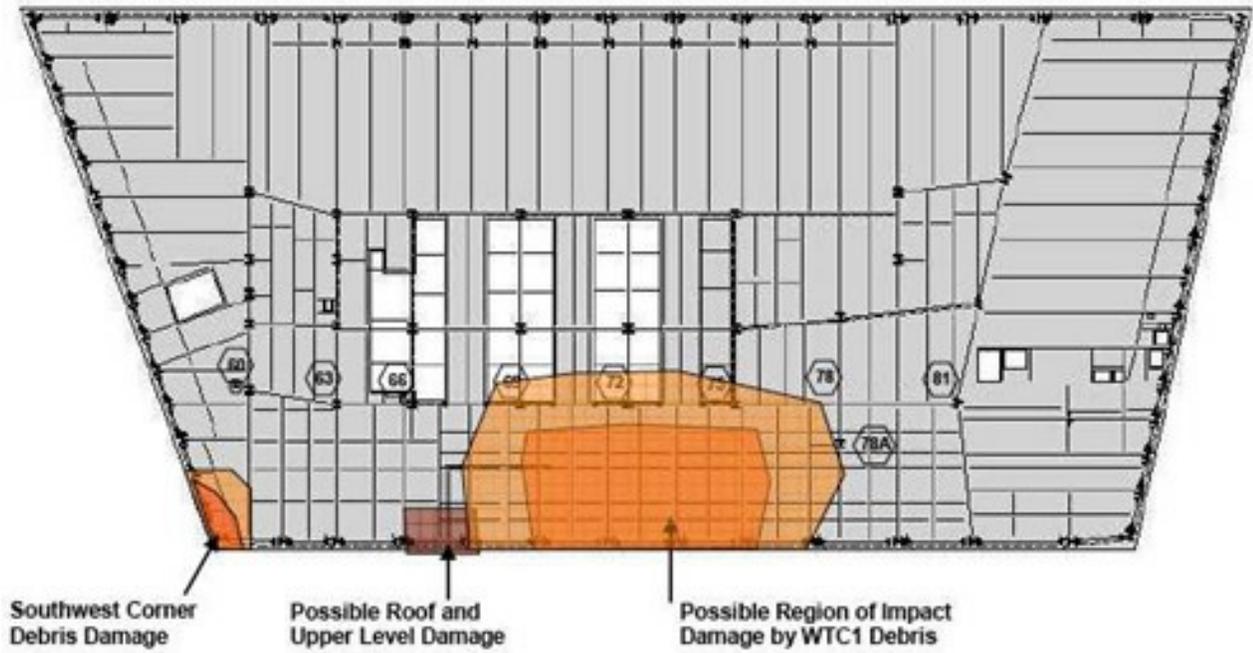


Figure L-23c. Possible extent of debris damage in plan.

Note that the following two photos may correspond only to the relatively minor “Possible roof and upper level damage” described in the diagram above. They may not show what is believed to be more serious damage below.



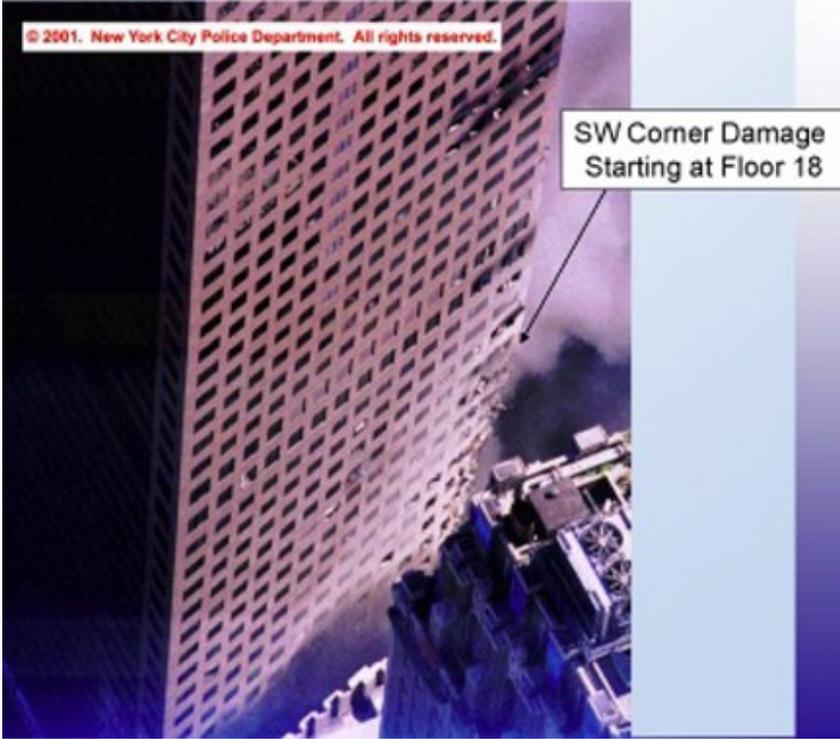
WTC 7 South face damage further down



Still from video linked above.

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SW Corner Damage
Starting at Floor 18





The remaining tower of New York's World Trade Center dissolves in a cloud of dust and debris about a half hour after the first twin tower collapsed. The pictures were made from across the Hudson River in Jersey City, New Jersey. Photo by Ray Stubblebine / REUTERS.

From the video *September 11, 2001: What We Saw*





Looking south towards WTC 6 and 1. 7 is at left. Photographer is nearly 200 meters from WTC1.



GEORGE MILLER / NYCTA

A closer look down Washington St. to WTC 6. WTC 7 stands at left, Verizon bldg. at



right.

Shepard Sherbell

Photo taken directly in front of the south side of WTC 7, looking west, before it collapsed.



Figure L-23b. WTC 7 Promenade and debris on Vesey Street after WTC 1 collapsed.