The **World Trade Center** (**WTC**) was a complex of seven buildings in [Lower Manhattan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Manhattan) in New York City that was destroyed in the [September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks). The site is currently being rebuilt with six new skyscrapers and a [memorial to the casualties of the attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_September_11_Memorial_%26_Museum). At the time of their completion, 1 World Trade Center and 2 World Trade Center were the tallest buildings in the world, surpassing the [Empire State Building](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_State_Building), which is also in [Manhattan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan).

The cost for the construction was $400 million ($2,169,167,354 as of 2011).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center#cite_note-inflation-US-1) The original World Trade Center was designed by [Minoru Yamasaki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minoru_Yamasaki) in the early 1960s using a [tube-frame structural design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tube_(structure)) for the twin 110-story towers. In gaining approval for the project, the [Port Authority of New York and New Jersey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Authority_of_New_York_and_New_Jersey) agreed to take over the [Hudson & Manhattan Railroad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_%26_Manhattan_Railroad), which became the [Port Authority Trans-Hudson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Authority_Trans-Hudson) (PATH). Groundbreaking for the World Trade Center took place on August 5, 1966. The North Tower (1) was completed in December 1972 and the South Tower (2) was finished in July 1973; the two were collectively known as the **Twin Towers**, the two tallest buildings in the world at that time. [The construction project](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construction_of_the_World_Trade_Center) involved excavating a large amount of material, which was used for landfill to make [Battery Park City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battery_Park_City) on the west side of Lower Manhattan.

The complex was located in the heart of New York City's downtown financial district and contained 13.4 million square feet (1.24 million m2) of office space.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center#cite_note-2)[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center#cite_note-3) The [Windows on the World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_on_the_World) restaurant was located on the 106th and 107th floors of 1 World Trade Center (the [North Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Tower)) while the [Top of the World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center#Top_of_the_World_observation_deck) observation deck was located on the 107th floor of 2 World Trade Center (the [South Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Tower)). Other World Trade Center buildings included the [Marriott World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriott_World_Trade_Center); [4 World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4_World_Trade_Center); [5 World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5_World_Trade_Center); [6 World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6_World_Trade_Center), which housed the [United States Customs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Customs). All of these buildings were built between 1975 and 1981. The final building constructed was [7 World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7_World_Trade_Center), which was built in 1985. The World Trade Center experienced a fire on February 13, 1975, and a [bombing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center_bombing_(1993)) on February 26, 1993. In 1998, the Port Authority decided to privatize the World Trade Center, leasing the buildings to a private company to manage, and awarded the lease to [Silverstein Properties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silverstein_Properties) in July 2001.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, [Al-Qaeda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda)-affiliated hijackers flew two [767](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_767) jets into the complex, one into each tower, in a coordinated [terrorist attack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_terrorism). After burning for 56 minutes, the South Tower (2) collapsed, followed a half-hour later by the North Tower (1), with the attacks on the World Trade Center resulting in 2,752 deaths.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center#cite_note-4) 7 World Trade Center collapsed later in the day and the other buildings, although they did not collapse, had to be demolished because they were damaged beyond repair. The process of cleanup and recovery at the [World Trade Center site](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center_site) took eight months. The first new building at the site was 7 World Trade Center, which opened in May 2006. The [Lower Manhattan Development Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Manhattan_Development_Corporation) (LMDC), established inNovember 2001 to oversee the rebuilding process, organized competitions to select a [site plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Site_plan) and memorial design. [Memory Foundations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_Foundations), designed by[Daniel Libeskind](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Libeskind), was selected as the master plan, which included the 1,776-foot (541 m) [One World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_World_Trade_Center), three office towers along Church Street and a memorial designed by [Michael Arad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Arad).

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