

The Buildings



The World Trade Center was developed and constructed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, a bi-state public agency, principally between 1962 and 1973. Seven buildings occupied the twenty-acre site. By far the most prominent were 1 WTC and 2 WTC, the North and South towers. At 110 stories and 1368 and 1362 feet tall, respectively, the Twin Towers were, at the time of their completion in 1971 and 1973, the two tallest buildings in the world.

Creating the edges of the site were low-rise structures, a suite of seven-story buildings known as 4 WTC, 5 WTC, and 6 WTC (the U. S. Customs House). These buildings were designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki to harmonize with the Twin Towers and frame the central plaza.

The building with the address 3 WTC, the Marriott Vista Hotel on the southwest corner of the plaza on West Street, was envisioned in the Yamasaki site plan, but was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and completed in 1981.

Added in 1987, the forty-seven story 7 WTC, designed by Emery Roth & Sons, rose on the north side of Vesey Street. The building was connected directly to the WTC complex on the plaza level by an enclosed pedestrian bridge.

