

CONTROLLED DEMOLITIONS of STEEL-FRAMED HIGH-RISES

1977 — Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 28 stories. When it was imploded by Controlled Demolition, Inc. (CDI) in October 1977, the 245-foot-tall structure became the tallest steel-framed building to be demolished with explosives. See <http://www.controlled-demolition.com/biltmore-hotel>.

1988 — Traveler's Insurance Building, Boston, Massachusetts. 18 stories. 450,000 square feet. See <http://www.controlled-demolition.com/travelers-building>

1997 — 500 Wood Street Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 27 stories. CDI's May 1997 implosion of the 344.5-foot-tall office building eclipsed the world record for the explosives demolition of urban steel buildings, which CDI set when it demolished the Biltmore Hotel (above). See <http://www.controlled-demolition.com/500-wood-street-building>

1998 — J.L. Hudson Department Store, Detroit, Michigan. 33 levels. October 1998. Hudson's was the tallest department store in the country and was second in square footage only to Macy's anchor store in NYC. It had two retail basements and 23 above-grade retail floors (meaning the stores on these floors were at least 50% above ground level), including mezzanines. Two additional basements and six upper stories in a tower provided storage and mechanical support for the 2.2 million square foot building. See <http://www.controlled-demolition.com/jl-hudson-department-store>

2012 — Red Road flats, Glasgow, Scotland. Eight tower blocks each 292 feet high. When these apartments were built in the mid-1960s, they were the tallest residential buildings in Europe. The first of these blocks, which consisted of three adjoining towers, was demolished in June 2012 as part of the Glasgow Housing Association's renewal program. The other seven will be brought down in 2017. According to William Sinclair, managing director of demolition contractor Safedem, Ltd., "The Red Road flats have presented a unique series of challenges ranging from the size of the buildings to the steel-frame structure." Indeed, because of that structure, the contractor planned for the bottom stories to remain undisturbed by the blowdown; they were later demolished using machines. About 275 kilos of explosives were used to bring down the triple block. Watch the demolition here: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-18385434>