

# Willis Tower



## Identification

<b>EBN</b>	117064
<b>Name</b>	Willis Tower
<b>Alternative Name</b>	Sears Tower
<b>Construction Type</b>	skyscraper
<b>Current Status</b>	existing [completed]

## Location

<b>Continent Name</b>	North America	<b>District (2nd level)</b>	Loop
<b>Country Name</b>	U.S.A.	<b>Postcode</b>	60606
<b>State Name</b>	Illinois	<b>Address (as text)</b>	233 South Wacker Drive
<b>Metro Area Name</b>	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City	<b>Main Address</b>	233 South Wacker Drive

Combined Statistical Area

<b>City Name</b>	Chicago	<b>Virtual Address</b>	200-250 South Franklin Street 300-348 West Jackson Boulevard 301-349 West Adams Street
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**District (1st level)** Downtown

### Map



### Description

<b>Foundation System</b>	caisson foundation	<b>Facade Color</b>	black
<b>Structural System</b>	bundled tube	<b>Architectural style</b>	international style
<b>Structural Material</b>	steel	<b>Main Usage</b>	commercial office
<b>Facade System</b>	curtain wall	<b>Side Usage</b>	shop(s) service branch(es) restaurant

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**Facade Material** aluminum

## Spatial dimensions

<b>Height (structural)</b>	1,450.59 ft	<b>Width</b>	225 ft
<b>Height (tip)</b>	1,729 ft	<b>Floors (underground)</b>	4
<b>Height (top floor)</b>	1,353.97 ft	<b>Floors (overground)</b>	108
<b>Height (roof)</b>	1,450.59 ft	<b>Workplaces</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Height (main roof)</b>	1,432.05 ft	<b>Parking places</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Height (floor-floor)</b>	12.86 ft	<b>Elevators</b>	104
<b>Length</b>	225 ft	<b>Gross Floor Area (GFA)</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>

## Years and costs

<b>Year (construction start)</b>	1970	<b>Year (construction end)</b>	1974
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## Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- Aircraft warning lights installed
- Doorman is available
- Double-decker elevators present
- Observation floor is available
- Skylobby is present
- Transmission antenna on roof

## Facts

- World's tallest building from 1974-1996, surpassed by Petronas Tower 1 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Until Taipei 101 was topped out in 2004, the Sears Tower held title to the world's highest roof and highest occupied floor.
- This has been the tallest building in Chicago since 1974. For a timeline of Chicago's tallest building through history, start with Holy Name Cathedral.

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- The structure is formed from nine bundled square tubes, each 75 feet wide with no columns between the core and perimeter. Two of the tubes are 50 floors high, two are 66 floors, three are 90, and two are 108.
- The design was actually inspired by a pack of cigarettes. Architect Bruce Graham used a pack of cigarettes to visualize his idea of using a series of bundled cylinders at different heights to create the tower.
- Sears executives chose to build a single tall headquarters building over an alternative proposal for twin towers at half the existing tower's height.
- Sears Tower was topped out on May 3, 1973, surpassing One World Trade Center as the world's tallest building.
- The two antennae on the roof give the tower one of the highest "tip heights" of any skyscraper in the world.
- In 2000, four high-definition television antennas were lifted to the roof by helicopter.
- Sears Roebuck & Co. originally occupied the lower half of its namesake tower. In 1995 the company moved to a low-rise complex in the northwest Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates.
- The lobby floor is decorated with metal tiles in a stylized design based on the bundled tube structure.
- Double-decker express elevators take passengers from the first two floors to skylobbies at floors 33/34 and 66/67.
- The height was listed in many sources for years as 1,454 feet. This is the result of misprinted data which was copied by several sources until it was corrected by the engineers in the middle 1990s.
- The lobby contains the moving sculpture "The Universe" by Alexander Calder.
- The observatory elevators are among the world's fastest at 1600 feet per minute.
- Twenty-eight acres of black anodized aluminum panels and approximately 16,100 bronze-tinted windows form the tower's facade.
- The tower has a pressure lock (like an airlock) at the freight entrance to combat the 'stack effect' generated by the differential in air pressure caused by cold air meeting warm air in the building.
- The Skydeck occupies the 103rd floor, the highest non-mechanical floor in the building. It has its own entrance on Jackson Boulevard, and attracts approximately 1.5 million visitors per year.
- 2.5 million cubic feet of concrete were used during construction.
- Before the tower was developed, its site was split in half by West Quincy Street. Sears paid the city of Chicago \$2.7 million for the street segment.
- The tower's sway has been known to induce motion sickness in people working at the top.
- This is not the original Sears Tower, the previous headquarters of Sears Roebuck was a vast building on Chicago's West Side that included the Sears Merchandise Building Tower.

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- A renovation in the 1980s added a barrel-vaulted entrance pavilion to the west side and a small cut-away atrium inside the east entrance.
- The building's facade has been climbed twice: by Dan Goodwin in 1981 and by Alain Robert in 1999.
- A viewing ledge built of three 1.3-centimeter thick glass layers, and suspended from the 103rd floor, opened to the public on July 2, 2009.

## Involved companies

*Architect*.....

**Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP**

224 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000  
60604 Chicago  
U.S.A.

Phone +1 312 554 9090  
Fax +1 312 360 4545  
Email somchicago@som.com

*Structural Engineering*.....

**Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP**

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Fax +1 312 360 4545  
Email somchicago@som.com

## Additional company data available for this building

<b>Architectural</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Landscape Architect</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Metalwork Supplier</b>			
<b>Client</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Lighting Consultant</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Developer</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Lightning Protection</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Electrical Contractor</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Elevator Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Owner</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Facade Engineering</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Property Management</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Facade Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Roofing Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Facility Management</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Sealants &amp; Adhesives Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>Foundation Company</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Steel Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>
<b>General Contractor</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>	<b>Tenant</b>	<a href="#">Contact us</a>

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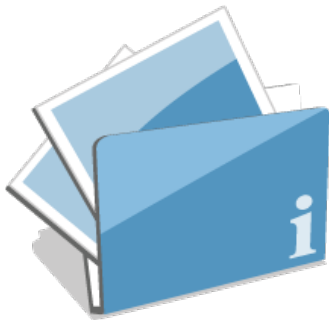
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