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23. Four Seasons Apartment Building

The Four Seasons Apartment Building was a new 6-story lift-slab reinforced concrete building nearing completion in 1964 (fig. 33). It reportedly withstood 2–3 minutes of shaking before collapsing just before the end of the earthquake. The main shear-resistant structural elements of the building, a poured-in-place reinforced concrete stairwell and a combined elevator shaft and stairwell, fractured at the first floor, toppled over, and came to rest on top of building rubble, all the while remaining largely intact (Hansen, 1965, p. A24–A25).



Figure 33. The remains of the Four Seasons Apartment Building, Anchorage, Alaska, 1964. The tilted column on the right was the combined elevator shaft and stairwell. (Photograph from U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Library, ID aeq00026.)