

12 November 2013 Last updated at 18:54 ET

One World Trade Center is 'tallest building in US'

A committee of architects has declared New York City's newly erected One World Trade Center the tallest building in the US, at 1,776ft (541m).

The Height Committee of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat announced its decision in Chicago.

The previous title holder was that city's tallest building, the Willis Tower, at 1,451ft (442m).

The committee ruled a 408ft needle at the top counted toward its height.

Antony Wood, executive director of the committee, which is seen as the final official word on building heights around the world, said the needle counted as a permanent structure.

The spire will serve as a broadcast antenna upon the building's completion in 2014.

Without that needle, the building measures 1,368 feet, well below the height of the Willis Tower, which was formerly known as the Sears Tower.

Both skyscrapers fall well short of the world's tallest building, the 2,723ft (830m) Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

One World Trade Center was built on the lower Manhattan site of the iconic Twin Towers, which were destroyed in the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 along with other buildings in the World Trade Center complex.

More than 2,000 people were killed there.

The tower's height of 1,776ft is a symbolic reference to the year of the signing of the US declaration of independence from Britain.

"The committee was well aware of the gravity of the situation," Mr Wood said.

One World Trade Center is also home to a museum and memorial to those lost in the attacks.

In a plaza under the tower, two large pools sit in the footprints of the original Twin Towers and contain the largest manmade waterfalls in the country.

[More US & Canada stories](#)



[US senator stabbed as son dies](#)

[\[/news/world-us-canada-25005807\]](#)

A Virginia state senator is in hospital after being stabbed "multiple times" in his home, where his son was found dead of a gunshot wound, police say.

[Toronto mayor 'gives up alcohol'](#)

[\[/news/world-us-canada-25004557\]](#)

[Legendary Lincoln speech remembered](#)
[\[/news/world-us-canada-25005802\]](#)



BBC © 2013 The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read more.](#)