



The Town Company Brick building at 11th Street and Main, built in 1889, is one of the oldest buildings still standing in Goodland. The High Plains Museum



Today, the signs reading "Furniture" and "Carpets" are still visible, though many features, including the front doors and windows, have been replaced. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Town Company Brick one of the oldest buildings left

One of Goodland's earliest buildings is still standing at the northwest corner of 11th Street and Main.

The Town Company Brick was completed in 1889, just two years after the incorporation of Goodland. The construction cost about \$7,700.

It was the Sherman County Development Company's second building, their first having been built at the corner of Ninth Street and Main in 1887. The company owned interest in the original town and its first several additions.

The building has seen many different businesses over the years. The south portion of the building started as a furniture

store owned by W.J. Bower and Sons out of Norton. Bower later expanded his business to include undertaking. Bower moved out in 1891.

James Bainbridge operated a hotel in The Town Company Brick from 1898 to 1903. After that, the Rock Island Railroad moved in. The building housed the railroad superintendent, clerks and train dispatchers. Space was too limited for the railroad office, however, and it soon moved out.

The building was sold for \$4,000 in 1905 to Ernest Bower, who renovated it. In 1909, a basement storeroom was built and a heating plant installed.

It was remodeled again in 1927, this time adding a new brick addition to the exterior. The east and west partitions were torn out. The building now contained a chapel, morgue and casket display room.

In 1939, the Bower funeral business moved to the Ennis House. Bob Bower, the son of W.J. Bower, purchased the company and continued to operate the furniture side of the business. Bob added a display room in the basement in 1945. The W.J. Bower and Sons company was sold to Maricle Brothers of Dodge City in 1948.

The Maricles constructed

a new office in the northwest corner of the building, then moved out in 1950. Bob Bower moved back in and continued to sell furniture and floor coverings until 1951, when he closed the furniture side of the business due to labor and material shortages. His furniture stock - worth about \$30,000 - was auctioned off.

Thompson Furniture Company of Colby opened a new store in The Town Company Brick in 1951. It eventually absorbed Bower Floor Coverings. The company operated there until 1957. Also in the 1950s, Frey Furniture, Appliances and Farm Machinery operated out of the Town Com-

pany Brick.

Claude and Leah Drake moved into the building in 1957 with their Associated Surplus Store. They remained in the building until 1976. In the '70s and '80s, the building was host to Anne's Craft Store, Ike's Plaster Crafts and Shoe Repair, Wild Bill's Bargain Center and The Mustard Seed.

Curt and Charlene Cole

bought the building in 1993 and remodeled it. The building housed the Checkerboard Arcade and the Dautel Bakery as well as La Mexican Store in the 1990s.

In the 2000s, the building has housed Cole Auction and Real Estate Office, the Pied Piper Video Store, Sight and Sound Entertainment, The Auction Mart and Daylight Donut.

Victorian house kept up over the years

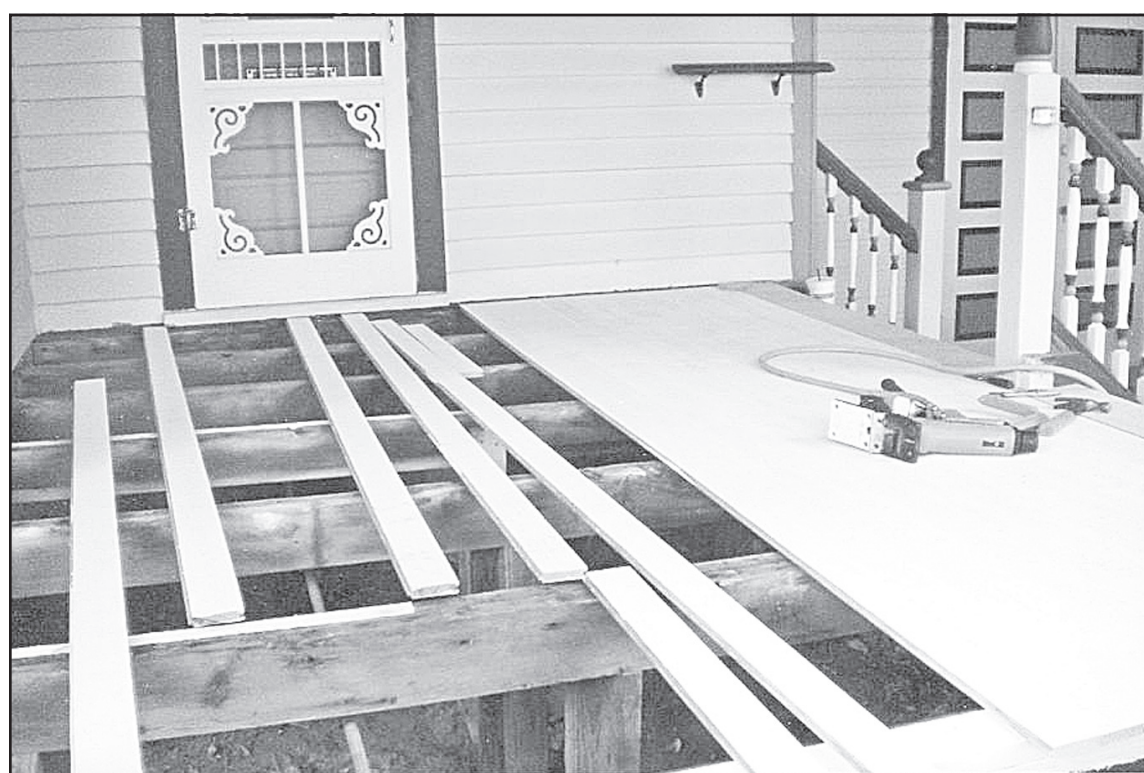
The Ennis-Handy House at 202 W. 13th Street is another old building to have survived the ages. It was built in 1907 by the widow of William Ennis, who had moved to Sherman County in 1894. At the time it was regarded as one of the finest residences in the state.

The contract price for the house was about \$5,000 - about \$115,000 in today's money. The contractor was Fred Hunt.

The house has two porches, four gables, three bay windows, a brick foundation, and a basement.

The building has had six owners over the years, Mary Ennis, James P. Cullen, Mrs. Emily A. Stewart, LeRoy F. Heston - the Sherman County Treasurer - Hope Bower and Calvin T. Handy.

It has used as a boarding house and the Bower Funeral Home as well as a home. The Bowers also lived in the house on the second floor, while operating the funeral home out of the main level. The funeral home was discontinued in 1944, after serving Goodland in various locations since 1890. The Bowers still owned the house until 1956, when



The Sherman County Historical Society recently replaced the floorboards on the deck of the Handy House. The deck had not been replaced since the original house was built in 1907. The Sherman County Historical Society

it was sold to Calvin Handy. Members of the Handy family lived in the house from then until the death of Edythe Handy in 2000.

The home now belongs to the Sherman County His-

torical Society, who keep it maintained. The society purchased the property in 2001. The latest work to be done includes replacing the boards on the front porch, the first time those boards had been

replaced in the house's 107-year history.



The old and the new

Many new buildings in Goodland stand right beside the old, such as this hangar at Renner Field, which was originally built in the 1950s and sits beside this new hangar. Butterfly Aviation



Give the boys first chance at Long Distance

It means a lot for a boy in the service to talk to his friends and family back home. Usually the best time he has to do that is in the evening.

How about giving him a break by not using Long Distance from 7 to 10 p.m. unless it is absolutely necessary?

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO.

The Will to Win

“I have complete confidence in the peoples of the United States, Great Britain, France and all the United Nations to see this war through to final victory, and as long as they will see it through I know well that the soldiers, sailors and airmen possess the indomitable will to win.”

GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

**Make the 6th War Loan your strongest blow for victory—
BUY AN EXTRA BOND TODAY!**

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
in Goodland, Kansas