The photo to the right is the George B. Keeler Building, also called the Josie B. Keeler Building, at the northwest corner of Second Street and Johnstone Avenue. The building was erected in 1899 and was consumed by fire January 27, 1964. The lot became the parking lot for the Eagles Lodge. This building was the home of W. Wolcott Mercantile from 1907-1917.
This photo represents the earliest photo of Second Street between Keeler Avenue and Johnstone Avenue archived at the Bartlesville Area History Museum. The photo shows the Almeda Hotel, which opened in 1905, at the corner of Johnstone and Second (far right) which is currently (2014) Tate Boys Tire and Service. The 1908-1909 Bartlesville City Directory indicates the north side of the 100 block of Second Street contained: 100 William Wolcott Store (in the Keeler Building), 102 Vacant, 104 Ogilvie Cigar Company, 106 Wisconsin Restaurant, 108 C.C. Van Tine, 110 Bray’s Restaurant, 118 Wilson & Lawless Union Feed Store.
Three new modern buildings in the 100 block of West Second Street.
(north side between Johnstone Avenue and Keeler Avenue)
From left to right - Graybill Building, Eagles' Home and Gladstone Hotel. Date not known.

South side of Second Street between Johnstone and Keeler showing the train depot at the west end of Second with dirt streets.
By the later part of 1926, a second floor had been added to the 108-110 Eagles Hall building. The 1927 Bartlesville City Directory indicates 100 Haits Furniture Annex, 102 Vacant, 104 Benj. Friedberg Clothing, 106 Annear & Knightlinger Auto Repairs with 106 1/2 Mrs. Emma Norris furnished rooms, 108 A.R. McKnight Trans. with 108 1/2 and 110 1/2 Eagles Hall, 118 S.E. Stewart Garage, 122 E.C. James Taxi, 124 Baughman & Mergen Auto Painter, 126 Earl Holliday Restaurant, 128 J.R. Richards Restaurant.
On January 29, 1951 the buildings on the north side of Second were witness to disaster as fire broke out at Chester’s Bargain Store at the southwest corner of Second Street and Johnstone Avenue. The firemen bravely fought in 6 degree temperatures but the outcome brought the destruction of:

101 Rightway Recreation Billiards,
103 Stewart Saddle & Harness Shop,
105-107 Chester’s Bargain Store
and 109 Wee Blew Inn Cafe.
Ideal Cleaners at 113 was saved.
On January 27, 1964 the 100 block of West Second Street experienced a devastating fire that consumed more than half the north side of the block. Area historian Elmer Sark described the building at the northwest corner of Johnstone as:

“The stone building was the Josie B. Keeler Building, named for the wife of George B. Keeler during 1899, and was the first substantial building in the new town of Bartlesville, Indian Territory.”

(A historic loss for Bartlesville, a photo of the building is on the cover of this booklet.)

Some businesses lost in this fire:
100 Davis Transfer & Storage
100-04 Davis Furniture Co
106 Eppler Furniture
108 Moulder-Oldham Co
110 1/2 Eagles Hall-Aerie 610
103 S Johnstone-Benson Lumber Co. and the Jewel Hotel
From about 1946-1974, the Durrill Feed Store operated at 118 W 2nd. Then from 1974 until about 2001 Hildebrand Farm & Ranch Supply occupied the address.
For additional information contact us at:

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