

Wylie Park Pavilion

US Hwy. 281
1 mile north of town
Aberdeen, SD
Brown County



In 1910 the City of Aberdeen purchased land for Wylie Park, then one mile west of city limits, from A. N. Aldrich. Aldrich stipulated the park be named Wylie in honor of his father-in-law, James H. Wylie, an early pioneer of Aberdeen. The streetcar company contributed additional land for a lake supplied with water from an artesian well. The Wylie Park Pavilion was constructed in the park c.1912. While Aberdeen had streetcars, they ran continuously from town to Wylie Park on weekends and evenings. Among the park-bound passengers were young people ready to kick up their heels and dance to live music at the Pavilion. Public dances at the Pavilion remained popular from the time of its construction through the 1940s. Lawrence Welk was among the many entertainers who played the Pavilion. The Pavilion housed other activities such as political gatherings and club outings. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and can be rented from the City for events.