

The Seabrook Library

The Seabrook Library Guild was established in August of 1906. Ansul and Annie Wiltsie allowed the sitting room of their home, located at 913 Meyer, to be used as a gathering place for literary discussions and a library containing books donated by friends. Annual and life memberships were offered. Within two years the library's holdings had increased to 500 books.

Two years later, the citizens of Seabrook submitted a petition to the Town Site Company for the donation of land on which a permanent library could be constructed. Summer resident Ben Campbell donated a lot on Hardesty Street at the present-day location of Brown's Antique Shop. The Seabrook Library's Board of Trustees held its first meeting on October 27, 1910, at the Wiltsie residence. A charter was adopted and officers elected during this meeting.

In November, construction began on the new brick library on Hardesty Street, seen here, located across from Seabrook Elementary School. Mrs. Wiltsie served as the first librarian until 1916. The cornerstone of the new library was laid on September 8, 1916, and the building was officially dedicated. It also served as a community center and had a stage for theatrical performances.

