The mural, designed by artist Paula Collins of Denton, Texas, features a woman reading “The History of Vermilion Parish” to a small child, with scenes significant to Vermilion Parish history behind them.

“She carves the green brick in her studio and uses clay as mortar,” Chaote said. “Then, she sends them out to be fired. She numbers each brick, and it was put together here.”

More than 400 painstakingly carved bricks make up the mural, Chaote said. The artwork at the library also features vivid images of downtown Abbeville, including the local farming industry and local celebrations, such as the annual Omelette Festival and Cattle Festival.

According to Chaote, the grand opening of the library has gone smoothly. She said all of the books from the original library have been moved and the new books ordered have been added to the shelves.

“It’s taking some getting used to,” she said. “It took us three-and-a-half weeks to move.”

Chaote said a major concept in the building’s design was to promote function and to make patrons feel comfortable.

“I wanted it to be so that everyone would feel like it’s partly theirs,” she said. “It’s only as good as the people who use it.”