

Site beginnings

North Adelaide Grammar School (1854–1882)

The site on the north-east corner of Jeffcott and Ward Streets, North Adelaide, has been associated with education since the early days of South Australia. Its history began with an almost legendary figure, John Whinham. Born in Northumberland, England, in 1803, Whinham had an outstanding career as a scholar, and began teaching at the age of 20. A remarkable teacher, he was forced to leave his profession and country when the financial depression of 1848 swept away his investments.

Whinham and his family sought their future in the Colony of South Australia, with the intention of becoming landed gentry. Shortly after arrival, however, John decided to pursue his old profession. In 1854 he was able to open his own non-denominational secondary school on land purchased by George Fife Angas, property speculator, benefactor of Lutheran immigrants, and later revered as one of South Australia's founding fathers. Whinham's North Adelaide Grammar School opened with one pupil, but the school's reputation grew on the basis of its headmaster's competence. In the 1870s it could boast an enrolment of between 250 and 300 pupils. The Grammar School occupied the present site of the Refectory and Hamann Hall.

John Whinham's son, Robert, became the school's second headmaster in 1876, although the founder continued teaching until his retirement in 1881, completing nearly sixty years of service in front of a blackboard.



*Grow in the grace and knowledge of
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To
him be glory both now and forever!
Amen*

2 Peter 3:18



AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

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Australian Lutheran College

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ALC site history



L E A R N I N G F O R L I F E

On site boarding colleges

Whinham College (1882–1898)

In 1881 Robert Whinham had plans drawn up for a boarding house of considerable size to accommodate the large numbers of students attending the school at the height of its prosperity. Special attention was given to ventilation, space, and comfort. The dining room was described in the press as 'the finest of any college in the Colony'.

The large clock-tower building (now Hebart Hall) was opened in September 1882, together with a gymnasium–lecture hall (now the Löhe Memorial Library), and the school was renamed Whinham College. The cost of this building program was £10,000.

Until his tragic death in 1884—he was thrown from a horse on King William Road, near the present Women's and Children's Hospital—Robert was the driving force of the school. It declined after his death, and was closed in 1898.

Angas College (1898–1916)

In 1889 John Howard Angas, son of George Fife Angas, became the title-holder of Whinham College. When the school closed, Angas put the property in the hands of trustees to be used as an interdenominational missionary training school.

Angas College opened with the Rev W Lockhart Morton, a Presbyterian minister, as first principal.

From this school missionaries were sent out to China, Africa, India and South America. Morton received no salary and charged no tuition or boarding fees. The only support came from donations; not even collections were taken up. He trusted solely in divine providence.

In 1916 the army took possession of the property for use as a repatriation hospital. The old classrooms witnessed a few court martials during this period.

After World War I, Morton was unable to continue Angas College due to a lack of students.

Australia Lutheran College

ALC continues to provide a home to local and overseas students studying at tertiary institutions in Adelaide through its residential college facilities.

Lutheran education on site

Immanuel College and Seminary (1923–1942/45)

In May 1922 the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia purchased the property for £13,500.

On 25 February 1923, Immanuel College and Seminary were officially opened. They operated side by side until the Air Force commandeered the building in 1942, giving the College and Seminary ten days' notice to relocate.

Immanuel Seminary (1946–1967)

At the end of the war in 1945, the UELCA decided to retain the whole property for the use of the Seminary. Extensive renovations were undertaken, and Dr S P Hebart took up residence as Principal in July 1946. The old Grammar School building continued to be used as a lecturer's residence and for tertiary student accommodation, while the gymnasium and lecture hall, known as 'Angas Hall', were used as the Seminary chapel and, for some time, as the home

of the North Adelaide Lutheran congregation. In 1960 it was converted into the library.

Luther Seminary (1968–1989)

The amalgamation of the two Lutheran Churches in Australia in 1966 brought with it the union of Concordia and Immanuel Seminaries on the North Adelaide site. An extensive building program, begun in 1967, included the renovation of the old Whinham College, additions to the library, the erection of Graebner Hall to accommodate students and tertiary boarders, and demolition of the old Grammar School to make way for the refectory and an additional accommodation block. An appeal raised over \$1 million so that the new Seminary could be opened debt-free.

Over the years the increasing number of married students made it necessary to expand the campus with the purchase of bluestone villas on Jeffcott Street, and cottages on Archer Street and in Ward Court.

The purchase of the Principal's residence at 122 Jeffcott Street also allowed the Principal to move out of the main building.

The boundaries of the campus were extended in July 1985, with the purchase of a bakery property on Archer Street.

Luther Campus (1990–1997)

In 1989 the decision was made to move the then Lutheran Teachers College and the Lay Training Centre on to the Seminary site.

Luther Seminary (1998–2003)

In 1998 the three schools became three programs within the one tertiary institution, again called Luther Seminary.

Australian Lutheran College (2004–)

General Synod 2003 of the Lutheran Church of Australia decided to change the name of Luther Seminary to Australian Lutheran College from 1 January 2004, with three schools for coursework students plus a Research Centre.

Since 2010 ALC has delivered quality theological education through Higher Education as a college of the University of Divinity, and now delivers VET pathways as a member college of the Australian Centre for Advanced Studies.

In 2018 the three school structure changed to one college with three study streams as well as a renewed focus on research that underpins the teaching program and resources the church.

The college occupies a prime site within the inner city limits of Adelaide.

The Löhe Memorial Library, which is also located on site, contains a vast collection of theological resources.

As the tertiary institution of the Lutheran Church in Australia, ALC equips people for church service in Australia, New Zealand and beyond. ALC stands in a long tradition of Christian education pursued to the glory of God on this site.

In May 1922 the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia purchased 104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, for £13,500.

