

**South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL****SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE**

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(1)(a) of
the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: Immanuel College Chapel

PLACE NO.: 26622

ADDRESS: Kaurna Country
32 Morphett Road
Novar Gardens SA 5040
CT 6190/785 A179 FP6208 Hundred of Adelaide

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Heritage significance in accordance with s 17(2) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by South Australian architect Eric von Schramek and completed in 1971, Immanuel College Chapel is an outstanding South Australian example of a building demonstrating in situ off-form concrete construction. The chapel's reinforced concrete structure is expressed both internally and externally, with a high-quality, board-marked off-form texture to all visible surfaces and unusually features curved off-form concrete surfaces. Immanuel College Chapel finely articulates many key attributes of late-twentieth century ecclesiastical architecture, including an off-form concrete structure poured in situ, forming a key architectural feature; a distinctive roofline, designed to set the chapel apart from surrounding secular buildings and connote a religious function; and plain wall surfaces of undecorated face brick and subtly-textured off-form concrete. Immanuel College Chapel also has a special association with South Australian architect Eric von Schramek, who made a notable contribution to South Australian history through his role in the development of innovative ecclesiastical architecture in South Australia. Eric von Schramek considered Immanuel College Chapel to be 'one of [his] most important designs'.

Relevant criteria in accordance with s 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics

Immanuel College Chapel, designed by South Australian architect Eric von Schramek and completed in 1971, is an outstanding South Australian example of a building demonstrating in situ off-form concrete construction. The walls of the chapel are supported by a reinforced concrete structure featuring complex perimeter beams and semi-detached blade-like pylons, supporting red brick infill spandrels. The concrete structure is expressed both internally and externally, with a high-quality, board-marked off-form texture to all visible surfaces. Unusually, the chapel also exhibits curved off-form surfaces, notable in the concave, shield-like corner walls, which are prominent features of the chapel.

Immanuel College Chapel also finely articulates many key attributes of late-twentieth century ecclesiastical architecture, namely:

- a radical floorplan responding to liturgical change, in this instance a square floorplan with chamfered corners, and fixed pews arrayed around an altar located in one corner,
- an off-form concrete structure poured in situ, forming a key architectural feature,
- a distinctive roofline, designed to set the chapel apart from surrounding secular buildings and connote a religious function,
- coloured glass windows,
- windows with vertically proportioned openings,
- plain wall surfaces of undecorated face brick and subtly-textured off-form concrete,
- play of light from unseen or unexpected sources to create a special mood, in this instance, through narrow, floor-to-ceiling arrowslit-like windows and paired, facing windows illuminating floor-to-ceiling alcoves,
- unbroken straight lines emphasising verticality, notably in the numerous ground-to-roofline and floor-to-ceiling features,
- elements reminiscent of Gothic flèches or spires, pointing 'heavenward', most obviously in the structure of the freestanding campanile and more subtly in the convex curves of the roofline,
- architectural 'distinctiveness' achieved through experimentation in space and form,
- integration into community expressed through familiar, 'humble' materials such as brick, concrete and clear-finished timber, with domestic associations.

In the twenty-first century, Immanuel College Chapel has been critically acclaimed by the architectural profession when reviewing the contribution of post-war ecclesiastical architecture to South Australia. In 2011, the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) National Heritage Taskforce included Immanuel College Chapel in its list of 117 buildings it considered to be significant twentieth-century South Australian architecture, one of only four extant postwar churches to be so recognised. The others were Nunyara Chapel, Belair (SHP 14785), St David's Anglican Church, Burnside (SHP 26553) and Centennial Park Jubilee Chapel.

(g) it has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

Immanuel College Chapel has a special association with South Australian architect Eric von Schramek, who made a notable contribution to South Australian history through his role in the development of innovative ecclesiastical architecture in South Australia, especially during the 1950s and 1960s. Von Schramek was knighted in 1982 for service to architecture. As a prestigious commission for one of Adelaide's premier Lutheran schools, the Immanuel College Chapel afforded von Schramek considerable professional visibility, both within the architectural profession and within the Lutheran Church community, more so than any one of his parish church commissions could have done individually. One of von Schramek's last major church commissions, the Immanuel College Chapel represents the culmination of his work in the field of ecclesiastical architecture. Reflecting on his career in 2007, Eric von Schramek considered the Immanuel College Chapel to be 'one of [his] most important designs and one of [his] favourites.' In 2011, the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) National Heritage Taskforce included Immanuel College Chapel in its list of 117 buildings it considered to be significant twentieth-century South Australian architecture, one of only two buildings designed by Eric von Schramek to be critically recognised in this way. The other, the former Maughan Church, Franklin Street, Adelaide, was demolished in 2016.

The South Australian Heritage Council provides the following information as a part of public consultation.

SITE DETAILS

Immanuel College Chapel

PLACE NO.: 26622

32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Steel, brick and in-situ off-form concrete chapel with mezzanine gallery
HISTORIC THEME/S	4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities 4.1 Shaping the suburbs (pre and post World War 2) 6. Developing Social and Cultural Life (supporting and building communities) 6.1 Supporting diverse religions and maintaining spiritual life 6.2 Making education available to all South Australians 6.7 Continuing cultural traditions 6.8 Marking the phases of life
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1970 – 1971
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated 4 November 2021 Provisionally entered 6 August 2026
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	
CURRENT USE:	Lutheran place of worship 1971 – present
ARCHITECT:	Eric von Schramek; Bruer, von Schramek and Dawes 1970 – 1971
BUILDER:	R. W. Emery Ltd 1970 – 1971
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of West Torrens
LOCATION:	Address: 32 Morphet Road Novar Gardens SA 5040

LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title	CT 6190/785 A179 FP6208
	Reference:	
	Hundred:	Adelaide

Draft for Consultation

Site Plan

Immanuel College Chapel

PLACE NO.: 26622

32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens



Immanuel College Chapel (CT 6190/785 A179 FP6208 Hundred of Adelaide)

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Chapel building,
- Concrete structure and brick infill,
- Freestanding campanile
- Timber, fibreglass and aluminium sculpture by Stan Ostojja-Kotkowski,
- Original exterior and interior materials and material finishes, including off-form concrete, face brick and clear-finished timber,
- Plain internal and external wall surfaces,
- Original fittings including gallery balustrades, fixed pews and bell.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Single-storey 1990s additions,
- Reverse-cycle air conditioning installation,
- Data projector and screens,
- Circular pendent LED light fittings,
- Surrounding buildings, structures, trees and landscaping.

N ↑

LEGEND

- Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
- Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place – Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

Summary of State Heritage Place: 26622

7 of 23

Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 6 August 2026

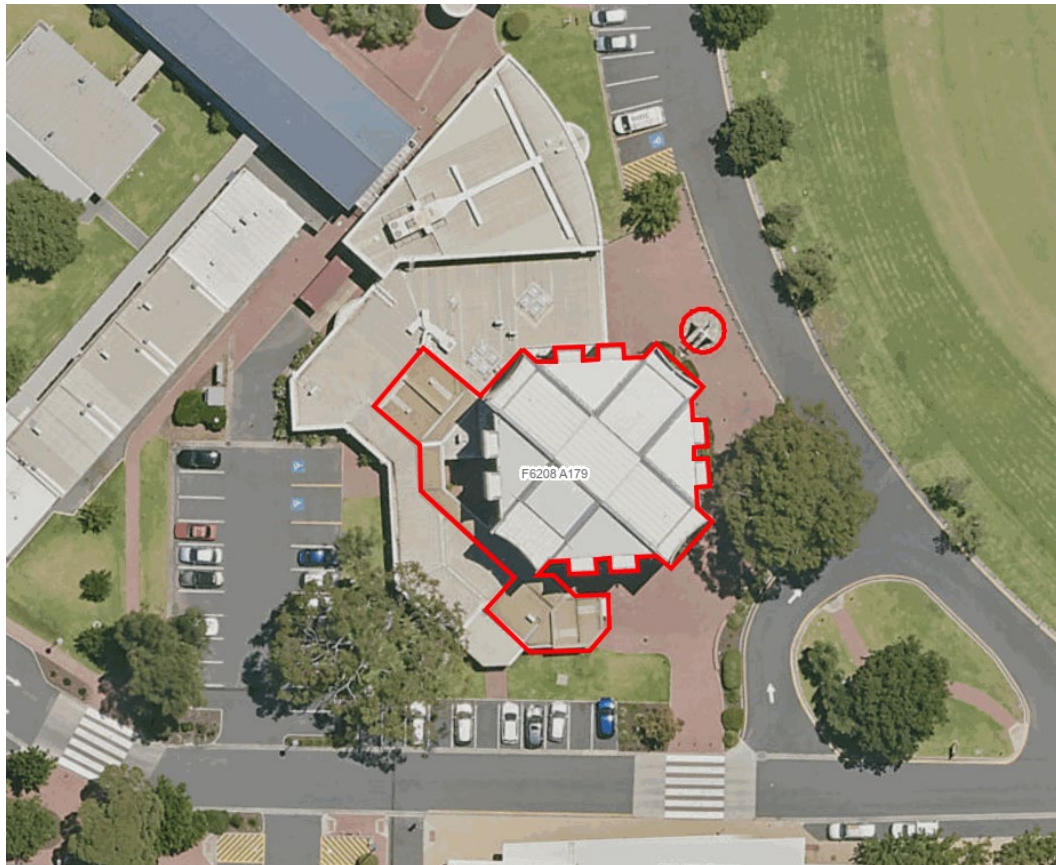
Open for Public Consultation from 2 September 2026 to 2 December 2026

Site Plan

Immanuel College Chapel

PLACE NO.: 26622

32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens



Immanuel College Chapel (detail).

N ↑

LEGEND

- Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
- Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place – Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

Physical Description

Immanuel College Chapel is a church featuring a square floorplan with chamfered corners, an exposed-off-form reinforced concrete-frame, and double red-brick infill walls. The main roof comprises a number of flat planes arranged in a cruciform pattern, covered in deck-profile steel. The roof in turn is ringed by a series of structural off-form concrete pylons that terminate in convex parapets.

External features include:

- structural reinforced concrete convex pylons to chamfered corners,
- paired structural concrete pylons semi-detached from northern, southern, eastern and western elevations,
- structural reinforced concrete perimeter beams encircling structure at three levels, including at mezzanine and roof levels,
- off-form concrete finish to reinforced concrete elements,
- slit windows in convex corner pylons, interrupted by ring beams, with amber and blue coloured glass
- narrow windows between paired pylons and main elevation wall,
- aluminium window and door frames,
- freestanding campanile (bell tower) comprised of four parabolically-tapered reinforced concrete pylons arranged in cruciform configuration, and cruciform welded steel suspension point and surmounted by a welded steel cross,
- irregular slate paving to campanile podium,
- single-storey structures to western and southern sides (significant fabric)
- 1990s single-storey additions to northern, western and southern sides (not significant fabric).

Internal features include:

- red face brick and off-form concrete wall surfaces,
- suspended main ceiling to nave, with white tiles in stainless steel or aluminium frame,
- suspended spandrel ceilings to nave with Stramit tiles in stainless steel or aluminium frame,
- white marble altar,
- sculpture by Stan Ostojka-Kotkowski mounted on reredos wall behind altar, depicting a descending dove and halo in the form of a cross, with seven flames below, executed in wood, fibreglass and aluminium,
- 'Tree of Life' stained glass window by Lindy Sando and Vaughan Taylor (Art Glass Design),
- reinforced concrete, cantilevered mezzanine gallery to main worship space,
- pipe organ console and case on eastern side of gallery, with timber pediments echoing the shape of external concrete pediments,
- clear-finished timber balustrade to gallery and gallery stairs,
- clear-finished timber pews in nave (arrayed around altar) and gallery,

- downlights in gallery soffit.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Chapel building,
- Concrete structure and brick infill,
- Freestanding campanile,
- Timber, fibreglass and aluminium sculpture by Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski,
- Original exterior and interior materials and material finishes, including off-form concrete, face brick and clear-finished timber,
- Plain internal and external wall surfaces,
- Original fittings including gallery balustrades, fixed pews and bell.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Single-storey 1990s additions,
- Reverse-cycle air conditioning installation,
- Data projector and screens,
- Circular pendent LED light fittings,
- Surrounding buildings, structures, trees and landscaping.

History of the Place

Lutheran settlement in South Australia¹

The first Lutherans to settle in South Australia were predominantly German-speaking religious refugees from Brandenburg in Prussia. Sponsored by George Fife Angas, a prominent Baptist Dissenter and founder of the South Australian Company, they arrived in November 1838 and settled on land owned by Angas on the River Torrens. Others arrived soon afterwards, settling in the Adelaide Hills, while the first group later resettled in the Barossa Valley. The success of Lutheran settlement in South Australia established a 'chain' of German migration to South Australia which endured to 1914, and South Australian Lutheran settlements served as the nucleus from which Lutheran communities and missions throughout Australasia were established.

The Lutheran Church in South Australia was split over a theological disagreement in 1846, resulting in the creation of the Bethany-Lobethal Synod (later known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia, or ELCA) led by Pastor Gotthard Daniel Fritzsche, and the Langmeil-Light Pass Synod (later known as the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, or UELCA) led by August Ludwig Christian Kavel. As a result of this and subsequent rifts, many South Australian towns possessed two distinct Lutheran congregations. The schism was not fully healed until 1966, when the UELCA and the ELCA merged to form the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA).

Immanuel College

Lutheran education in South Australia commenced from the time of settlement in 1839. In 1895, Pastor Georg Friedrich Leidig opened a boarding school at Point Pass to instruct his confirmees, train teachers for Lutheran day schools and to offer higher education, known as Immanuel Preparatory School. In 1921, Wartburg Seminary was established by Pastor Johannes Paul Löhe at Tanunda. In 1923, the School and Seminary amalgamated and relocated to the former premises of Angas College, North Adelaide (SHP 13513), becoming known as Immanuel College and Seminary.

In March 1942, Immanuel College and Seminary was evicted from Angas College as it was requisitioned by the Royal Australian Air Force.² Immanuel College relocated to Walkerville, while the Seminary relocated into Clifton House on the North Adelaide Campus.

In 1945, the UELCA General Synod resolved to move Immanuel College to a new location, considering the future development of the school to require 'about 50 broad acres.' In 1949, the College Board and College Commission recommended the purchase of 45 acres of land from George Morphet (b. 1876 – d. 1963) at Camden, now Novar Gardens. This was accomplished and the land transferred on 27 July 1950.

The College appointed a Planning Commission, which in turn appointed South Australian architect Dean W. Berry (b. 1904 – d. 1986) to prepare a master plan for the site. Postwar building restrictions frustrated immediate building plans and, in the meantime, volunteers began preparing the College property by clearing olives and

brambles, building fences, draining the site, and planting trees. Building controls were lifted on 30 January 1953 and Martin Building Construction commenced a two-year building program on site on 24 March 1955, at tender price of £173,000. Classes commenced at the new site on 12 February 1957, and the new Immanuel College was officially opened by Sir Robert George, Governor of South Australia, on 3 March 1957.

Immanuel College Chapel

On 31 March 1963, Immanuel College Old Scholars Association (ICOSA) launched an ambitious Chapel Building Fund for the construction of a permanent purpose-built chapel at Immanuel College. ICOSA considered a chapel to be the 'missing keystone' of the Camden campus.³ At this time, daily worship was conducted in ordinary classrooms.

The Chapel Building Fund appeal employed a planned giving approach, a typical fundraising method for church building projects during the postwar period,⁴ in which old scholars were canvassed and encouraged to pledge a regular amount over a period of several years. The appeal hoped to raise £37,500 over five years.⁵ £13,500 had been promised and £6,364 received by May 1964.

A Chapel Committee was formed and in consultation with College Board of Management, ultimately recommended a central location for the chapel between the school's male and female dormitories. By August 1965, Dean W. Berry of D. W. Berry & Associates had prepared a scheme for a chapel and produced an indicative scale model.⁶

Subsequent consultation with the UELCA Department of Liturgics encouraged the College Board of Management to engage a church design specialist as a 'consultant designing architect'.⁷ On 13 April 1966, Berry submitted a second design to the College Board. This design was 'not favoured' and Berry was displeased at the Department of Liturgics' suggestion of engaging the UELCA's architect, Eric von Schramek.⁸ Berry produced at least one subsequent plan by December 1966.⁹ By March 1967, \$24,235 had been received to the Chapel Appeal fund in cash donations.¹⁰

In early 1967, a new Chapel Planning Committee was formed.¹¹ On 13 September 1967, a special meeting of the College Board accepted in principle the cost of a chapel costing \$112,000 and directed D. W. Berry & Associates work with Eric von Schramek as consulting design architect. The Board additionally warned Berry that if unacceptable, the College 'would have to seek another architect.'¹²

On 4 April 1968, the Chapel Planning Committee invited Eric von Schramek to serve as architect and presented him with a design brief, which required the chapel to be 'the focal and dominant structure on the school campus.' Later in July 1968, Eric von Schramek was formally engaged to manage the whole of the chapel project.¹³

By August 1968, von Schramek had prepared perspective drawings of a chapel costing at \$100,000.¹⁴ The structural design comprised a steel roof structure supported by lightweight steel columns;¹⁵ these columns were in turn encased in a heavier, in situ reinforced concrete frame, which supported an infill of red brick spandrels. The concrete frame, which included complex perimeter beams and semi-detached, blade-like pylons, was designed to appear largely exposed internally and externally, with a board-marked off-form finish to all visible surfaces. Unusually for a South Australian building, the chapel prominently featured curved off-form surfaces, in the form of concave, shield-like corner walls.

Von Schramek described his proposed chapel as 'a robust, tower-like ... structure which powerfully reflected "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" (A mighty fortress is our God)', one of the best-known hymns of Martin Luther. Viewed in plan, Von Schramek's design forms a cross embedded diagonally within a square, creating a strong visual and structural stability while referencing the traditional ecclesiastical cruciform plan. With its massive walls and concealed arrow-slit windows, the chapel recalls a medieval citadel. The chapel's location at the centre of the College campus also presents it as the symbolic 'heart' of the school. Von Schramek's privileging of symbolic form, giving architectural expression to Biblical texts, is also apparent in his earlier design for Strait Gate Lutheran Church (SHP 26621). Von Schramek proposed a design that he considered 'meaningful to the young students', with a sky-line that suggested a crown, echoing a passage in the Book of Revelation: 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of Life.' He also selected materials he believed would be 'readily acceptable to today's people.'¹⁶ Von Schramek presented this proposed design and preliminary plans to the Annual General Meeting of ICOSA on 19 September 1968, resulting in a unanimous resolution to accept the proposed scheme.¹⁷

Final drawings and specifications were completed by early 1969 with tenders called between late September and early December that year.¹⁸ On 11 December 1969, an ICOSA Special General Meeting accepted the lowest tender from R. W. Emery Pty Ltd, at a price of \$108,000, and building commenced on site five days later on 16 December.¹⁹

The entire steelwork for the Chapel was in position prior to the laying of the Chapel foundation stone on 1 March 1970,²⁰ coinciding with the Immanuel College 75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service.²¹ Shortly afterwards, the builder began pouring in-situ off-form concrete 'wing-walls' in rotating sequence. Following some experimentation and 'early mishaps', Emery's firm succeeded in producing fine off-form finishes to von Schramek's satisfaction. Subsequently, bricklayers erected walls to the gallery floor level.²²

During mid-1970, employees of two South Australian cement works went on strike, making ready-mix concrete temporarily unavailable and delaying construction for several weeks. Construction was further delayed by Builders' Labourers Union strikes.²³

Second-lift off-form concrete walling was completed by August and third-lift concrete work commenced shortly afterwards.²⁴ The Chapel was largely finished by early 1971. The Chapel appeal and two subsequent appeals had raised \$52,000 by February 1971, leaving a shortfall of \$45,500. To meet progress payments due to the builder, ICOSA borrowed \$30,000 from the Lutheran Laymen's League.²⁵

To complete the Chapel, Stirling-based artist Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski was commissioned to create a large-scale artwork for the church, stylised from the Immanuel College crest, depicting a descending dove and halo in the form of a cross, with seven flames below. Executed in wood, fibreglass and aluminium, at a cost of \$1,346, the completed work measured 12 feet wide by 13 feet high and was mounted on the off-form reredos wall of the Chapel sanctuary.²⁶ The positioning of Ostoja-Kotkowski's artwork emphasises the verticality of Von Schramek's architectural design and forms a focus for the congregation's spiritual devotion. Set high on the wall of the sanctuary, and evoking Gothic architectural precedent, the positioning of the sculpture has a liturgical and spiritual function and is intended to raise the spirits of the faithful towards divine contemplation. Within the symbolic vocabulary or iconography of Christian art, the imagery of the dove and the flames is associated with the Biblical account of Pentecost (Acts 2). Lutherans celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Christian church, exactly 50 days after Easter. According to Acts 2, at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit (represented by the dove) descended on the Apostles, the followers of Jesus, as 'tongues of fire', empowering them to preach the Gospel.

The Immanuel College Chapel was dedicated and opened on 28 February 1971. All debts on the Chapel were paid off in full by November 1975.²⁷

During the mid-1990s the Chapel building was extended with single-storey additions on the northwestern-southern sides, resulting in the Centenary Thanksgiving Centre. At the same time, a purpose-built, professionally-equipped theatre, known as the Century Theatre, was built on the north-western side of the Chapel, necessitating the removal of the wing-wall associated with the freestanding belfry and the relocation of the belfry itself to the northeastern corner of the Chapel. Both the Centre and the Theatre opened on 26 February 1995.²⁸

Reflecting on his career in 2007, Eric von Schramek considered the Immanuel College Chapel to be 'one of my most important designs and one of my favourites.'²⁹ In June 2011, the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) National Heritage Taskforce, comprising representatives from each State and Territory, included the Immanuel College Chapel in a list of 117 buildings that it considered to be significant twentieth-century South Australian architecture.³⁰ Sometime before 2019 the original brick pulpit and lectern were removed and a platform installed over the original sanctuary. Original vertical fluorescent pendant light fittings in the chapel were replaced with circular LED light fittings by April 2021.

Chronology

Year Event

- 1817 Prussian monarch Friedrich Wilhelm III introduces a common state liturgy and union of churches.
- 1834 Friedrich Wilhelm III compels all Prussian congregations to adopt his state liturgy.
- 1835 August: Ludwig Christian Kavel, Pastor of Klemzig in Prussia, resigns in protest.
- 1838 November: Kavel and his followers, sponsored by George Fife Angas, arrive at Port Adelaide aboard the *Prince George*, and subsequently settle at Klemzig on the River Torrens.
- 28 December: another group of Lutheran families arrive in Port Adelaide aboard the *Zebra*, under command of Dirk Meinertz Hahn.
- 1839 March: the *Zebra* families settle in Hahndorf, named after Hahn.
- 1839 May: the first Lutheran convention on Australian soil resolves to invite Pastor Gotthard Daniel Fritzsche, from Posen in Prussia, to join the South Australian Lutheran community.
- 1841 October: Fritzsche arrives in South Australia.
- 1846 16-18 August: a schism occurs at the Bethany convention, splitting the South Australian Lutheran Church.
- 1892 Pastor Georg Friedrich Leidig moves to Point Pass to serve the local parish associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Synod.
- 1895 27 February: Leidig opens Immanuel Preparatory School at Point Pass.
- 1921 Wartburg Seminary was established at Tanunda under the direction of Pastor Johannes Paul Löhe.
- 1923 Immanuel College and Wartburg Seminary amalgamate and relocate to the former premises of Angas College, North Adelaide (SHP 13513), becoming known as Immanuel College and Seminary.
- 1942 In March 1942, Immanuel College and Seminary is evicted from its North Adelaide premises by the Royal Australian Air Force. The College relocates to Walkerville.
- 1949** The Immanuel College Board and College Commission recommend the purchase of 45 acres of land from George Morphet at Camden, now Novar Gardens.
- 27 July: 45 acres of land is transferred from George Morphet to Immanuel College.**
- 1955 24 March: Martin Building Construction commences a two-year building program on the Immanuel College Camden campus.
- 1957** 12 February: classes begin at the Immanuel College Camden campus.

- 3 March: the new Immanuel College was officially opened by Sir Robert George, Governor of South Australia.**
- 1963 31 March, the Immanuel College Old Scholars Association (ICOSA) launches an appeal to raise money towards building a permanent purpose-built chapel at Immanuel College.**
- 1965 Dean W. Berry of D. W. Berry & Associates presents his first scheme for a chapel and produces an indicative scale model.**
- 1966 Berry submits a second design to the College Board which is 'not favoured'.**
29 October – 2 November: amalgamation of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia (UELCA) with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia (ELCA) to form the Lutheran Church of Australia.
By December: Berry has submitted a third plan to the College Board.
- 1967 A new Chapel Planning Committee is formed.**
March: \$24,235 has been received to the Chapel Appeal fund in cash donations.
13 September: a special meeting of the College Board accepts in principle a chapel costing \$112,000 and directs architects D. W. Berry & Associates to work with Eric von Schramek as consulting architect.
- 1968 4 April: the Chapel Planning Committee invites Eric von Schramek to serve as architect for the chapel.**
July: Eric von Schramek is formally engaged to manage the whole of the chapel project.
By August: Eric von Schramek has prepared perspective drawings of a chapel costed at \$100,000.
19 September: Eric von Schramek presents his proposed design and preliminary plans for the chapel to the ICOSA Annual General Meeting, resulting in a unanimous resolution to accept the proposed scheme.
- 1969 Eric von Schramek completes drawings and specifications for the Chapel.**
September-December: tenders are called for construction of the Chapel.
11 December: an ICOSA Special General Meeting accepts the lowest tender from R. W. Emery Pty Ltd, at a price of \$108,000.
16 December: R. W. Emery Pty Ltd begins building the Chapel on site.
- 1970 The entire steelwork for the Chapel is completed prior to 1 March.**
1 March: the Chapel foundation stone is laid, coinciding with the Immanuel College 75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service.
R. W. Emery Pty Ltd begins pouring in-situ off-form concrete 'wing-walls' in rotating sequence. Bricklayers erect walls to the gallery floor level.
August: second-lift off-form concrete walling is completed.

- 1971 28 February: Immanuel College Chapel is dedicated and opened.**
- 1974 An organ committee is formed, with the objective of raising money towards the purchase of a purpose-built pipe organ for the Chapel.
- 1975 November: all debts on Immanuel College Chapel are paid off.
- 1980 21 September: a purpose-built pipe organ, built by Peter Collins of Redbourn, Hertfordshire UK and installed in a side gallery, is dedicated.
- 1994 Immanuel College Chapel is extended with single-storey additions on the northwestern-southern sides, resulting in the Centenary Thanksgiving Centre and the Century Theatre. The wing-wall associated with the Chapel's freestanding belfry is removed, and the belfry itself is relocated to the northeastern corner of the Chapel.
- 1995 26 February: the Centenary Thanksgiving Centre and the Century Theatre are opened by the Governor of South Australia, Dame Roma Mitchell.
- 2007 Eric von Schramek's edited memoirs are published, in which he describes Immanuel College Chapel as 'one of [his] most important designs and one of [his] favourites.'**
- 2011 June: the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) National Heritage Taskforce includes the Immanuel College Chapel in its list of significant twentieth century South Australian architecture.**
- 2021 April: original vertical fluorescent pendant light fittings in the chapel are replaced with circular LED light fittings by this time.

Bibliography

Books and Chapters

- Richard Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: styles and terms from 1788 to the present* (1989) North Ryde NSW: Angus and Robertson
- David Bennett, *Exploring Concrete Architecture: Tone, Texture, Form* (2001) Basel; Berlin; Boston: Birkhauser
- Gretchen Buggeln, *The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Postwar America* (2015) University of Minnesota Press
- Chris Burns, *Liturgy, Community, Modernity: postwar places of worship in South Australia 1945 – 1990* (2020) Adelaide SA: Architecture Museum, University of South Australia
- Robert Courland, *Concrete Planet: The Strange and Fascinating Story of the World's Most Common Man-Made Material* (2011) Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books
- Catherine Croft, *Concrete Architecture* (2004) Layton: Gibbs Smith
- Adrian Forty, *Concrete and Culture: A Material History* (2012) London: Reaktion
- Ian A. Harmstorf, 'German Settlement in South Australia to 1914' in Ian A. Harmstorf (ed), *Insights into South Australian History Volume 2: South Australia's German History and Heritage* (1994) Adelaide SA: Historical Society of South Australia Inc.
- Everard Leske, *For Faith and Freedom: the story of Lutherans and Lutheranism in Australia 1838-1996* (1996) Bowden SA: Friends of Lutheran Archives
- Peter McAdam, *Architectural Concrete* (1982) Brisbane: Queensland Institute of Technology
- Summary of State Heritage Place: 26622
- Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 6 August 2026
- Open for Public Consultation from 2 September 2026 to 2 December 2026

National Precast Concrete Association Australia and Concrete Institute of Australia, *Precast Concrete Handbook*, 2nd ed (2009) Adelaide; North Sydney: self-published

Michael Page, *Sculptors in Space: South Australian Architects 1836-1986* (1986) Adelaide SA: Royal Australian Institute of Architects (South Australian Chapter)

W. Rilett, *Immanuel College, Novar Gardens: a history of the years 1945 – 1970* (1970) Novar Gardens SA: Immanuel College 75th Anniversary Committee

David Schubert, 'Lutheran Church' in Wilfred Prest (ed) *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History* (2001) Kent Town SA: Wakefield Press

Eric von Schramek and Helen Gordon, *Reminiscences: Eric von Schramek and his churches* (2007) Adelaide: Lutheran Archives, South Australia

Reports and Theses

Chris Burns, 'Postwar Places of Worship in South Australia 1945 – 1990, Report for the Environment and Water South Australian Built Heritage Research Project 2018-2019' (2019) Adelaide: Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

J. K. Chilman, 'Barossa Valley Aboriginal Heritage Survey: Pilot Study, a report to Aboriginal Heritage Branch South Australian Department of Environment and Planning' (1990)

Newspapers and Periodicals

ICOSA Tidings March 1963 – November 1975

Websites

June Edwards, 'Joseph Stanislaus Ostojka-Kotkowski,' SA History Hub <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/people/josef-stanislaus-ostojka-kotkowski/>

Lyall Kupke, 'Our North Adelaide College.' Lutheran Church of Australia <https://www.lca.org.au/blog/2013/06/10/our-north-adelaide-college/>

Alison McDougall, 'Von Schramek, Eric Emil (Sir)' in Architects of South Australia Database https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=53

H. F. W. Proeve, 'Georg Freidrich Leidig (1870-1925)' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography* <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/leidig-georg-friedrich-7163>

State Library of South Australia Catalogue <https://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/record=b2190604>

Papers and Presentations

Chris Burns, 'Architectural Innovators: Eric von Schramek and Norman Drogemuller,' talk for the Friends of the Lutheran Archives, 21 September 2023, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Magill.

Stephen Schrapel and Amit Srivastava, 'The Everyday Innovators: Italian Migrants and Architectural Modernism in South Australia', paper presented at Modernism and the Everyday: A South Australian Perspective symposium, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 21 February 2025

Archival

RAIA Significant 20th Century Architecture Card Index (RAIA Collection S301/2 AM); https://web.archive.org/web/20160304002703if_/http://www.architecture.com.au/docs/default-source/act-notable-buildings/120-notable-buildings.pdf

PHOTOS

Immanuel College Chapel

PLACE NO.: 26622

32 Morphett Road, Novar Gardens

All images in this section were sourced from Instagram: consecratedconcete and were taken on 12 December 2025.



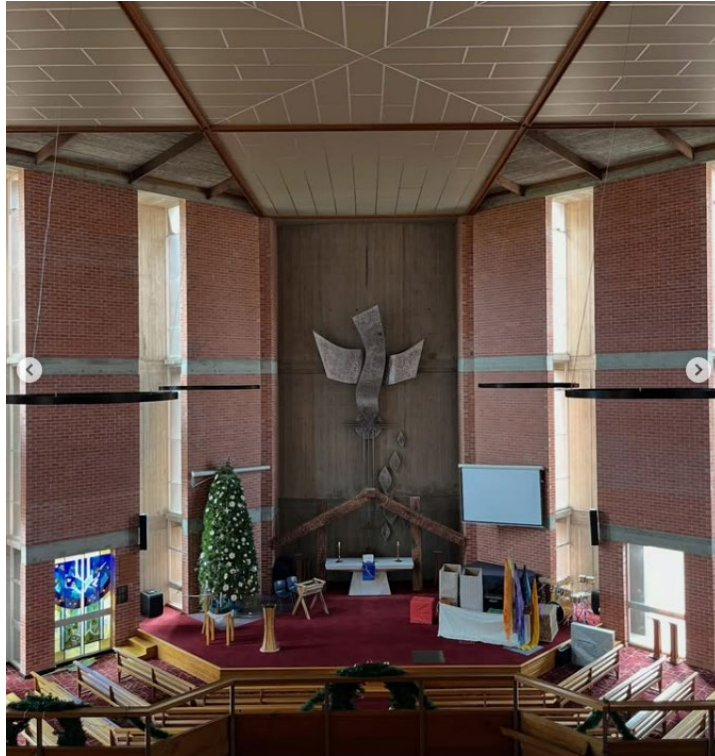
Exterior view showing eastern and northeastern elevations, note relocated belfry on right.



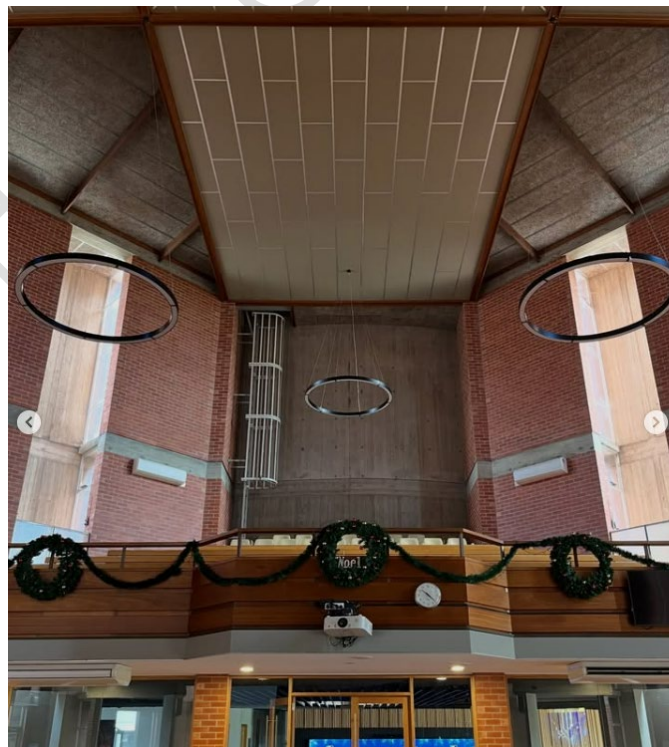
Exterior showing southern and southeastern elevations.

Immanuel College Chapel
32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens

PLACE NO.: 26622



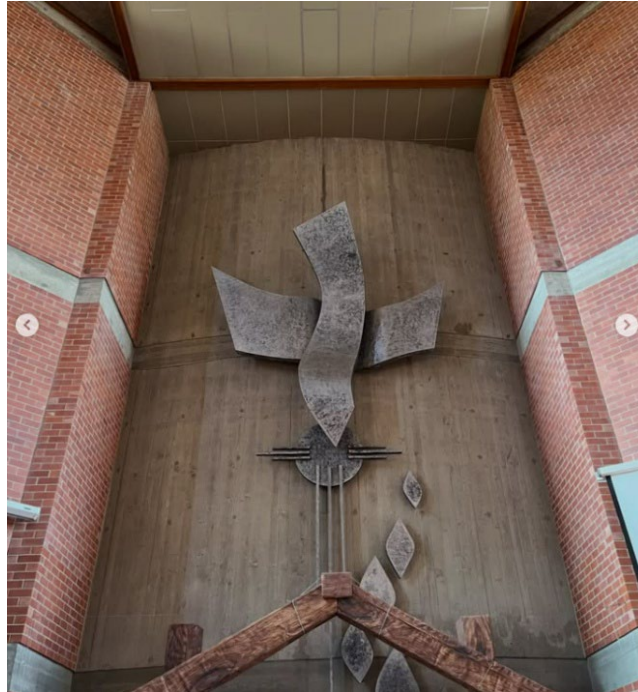
Chapel interior, view from gallery towards sanctuary.



Chapel interior, view from nave looking up towards gallery.

Immanuel College Chapel
32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens

PLACE NO.: 26622



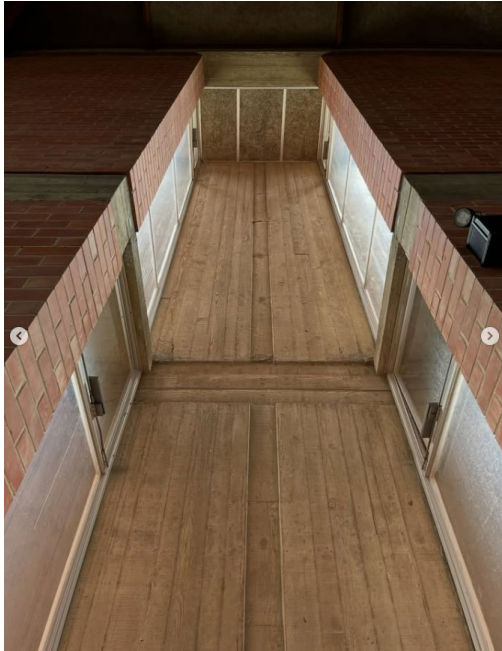
Descending dove sculpture by Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski on sanctuary wall, note off-form concrete texture of wall.



Interior view from nave showing galley and pipe organ.

Immanuel College Chapel
32 Morphet Road, Novar Gardens

PLACE NO.: 26622



Internal view of semi-detached concrete pylon, note off-form concrete texture.



Gallery seating.



Internal northern elevation.



'Tree of Life' stained glass window, by Lindy Sando and Vaughan Taylor, adjacent to sanctuary.

¹ This section is adapted from Everard Leske, *For Faith and Freedom: the story of Lutherans and Lutheranism in Australia 1838-1996* (1996) Bowden SA: Friends of Lutheran Archives

² Lyall Kupke, 'Our North Adelaide College.' Lutheran Church of Australia
<https://www.lca.org.au/blog/2013/06/10/our-north-adelaide-college/>

³ ICOSA Tidings March 1963 pp. 1-5

⁴ Chris Burns, 'Postwar Places of Worship'

⁵ ICOSA Tidings March 1963 p. 5

⁶ ICOSA Tidings August 1965 p. 1

⁷ ICOSA Tidings August 1965 p. 1

⁸ W. Rilett, *Immanuel College* p. 269

⁹ ICOSA Tidings December 1966 p. 5

¹⁰ ICOSA Tidings March 1967 p. 2; the conversion rate from Imperial to decimal currency on 14 February 1966 was £1 (One Pound) = \$2 (Two Dollars).

¹¹ ICOSA Tidings November 1975 p. 1

¹² W. Rilett, *Immanuel College* p. 270

¹³ W. Rilett, *Immanuel College* p. 270; Eric von Schramek and Helen Gordon, *Reminiscences* p. 75

¹⁴ ICOSA Tidings August 1968 p. 4

¹⁵ ICOSA Tidings May 1970 p. 1

¹⁶ Eric von Schramek and Helen Gordon, *Reminiscences* p. 75

¹⁷ ICOSA Tidings November 1968 pp. 4-5

¹⁸ ICOSA Tidings November 1969 p. 2

¹⁹ ICOSA Tidings February 1970 p. 5

²⁰ ICOSA Tidings August 1970 p. 1

²¹ ICOSA Tidings May 1970 p. 1

²² ICOSA Tidings August 1970 p. 1

²³ ICOSA Tidings August 1970 p. 1

²⁴ ICOSA Tidings August 1970 p. 1

²⁵ ICOSA Tidings February 1971 p. 3

²⁶ State Library of South Australia Catalogue

<https://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/record=b2190604>

²⁷ ICOSA Tidings November 1975 p. 1

²⁸ State Library of South Australia Catalogue

https://archival.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/prg/PRG778_6-23_RFMitchell_specialists.pdf

²⁹ Eric von Schramek and Helen Gordon, *Reminiscences*

³⁰ 'SA Notable Buildings'. Australian Institute of Architects

<https://www.architecture.com.au/explore/notable-buildings/sa-notable-buildings>