

# Lincoln University Heritage Initiative

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*For Immediate Release*

## Lincoln University's Azikiwe Nkrumah Hall: One of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2016



October 5, 2016. Lincoln University, PA- The Lincoln University Heritage Initiative (LUHI) is delighted that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has decided to place Azikiwe Nkrumah Hall on its renowned list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2016. Indeed this brings the alumni preservation group full circle to its inception in 2013. Their goal at that time was to save the Hall after Lincoln University's president and Board of Trustees announced their intention to tear down the oldest of the still standing historic buildings, built in 1865, on Lincoln's historic and majestic campus.

Lincoln University was known as Ashmun Institute when it was founded in 1854 and its name changed in 1866 after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Carol Black, President of the Lincoln University Heritage Initiative (LUHI) states, ***“This is a great day for all who love Lincoln University and appreciate its great historical, cultural and educational legacy as the nation’s first Historically Black College and University (HBCU). By saving Azikiwe-Nkrumah Hall, we enshrine not only the dreams and hopes of our early founders to educate African-American youth, who were generally barred from attending most institutions of higher learning in America, but also showcase to the nation our significant accomplishments and rich historical legacy through many challenges over the past 162 years. Now America has an opportunity to help stabilize and preserve one of its most historically significant and physically threatened structures.”***

***“Azikiwe-Nkrumah Hall is just 1 of 15 historic buildings on Lincoln’s campus that are eligible for designation on the National Register of Historic Places and preservation,”*** exclaims Robert Ingram, a member of LUHI and President of the Alumni Association of Lincoln University. Ingram continues, ***“Lincoln’s Board of Trustees and Interim President recently turned down an initial allocated state grant as well as another grant to partner with Morgan State University to explore the options to enable a preservation process that ultimately would lead to all of Lincoln’s historic buildings receiving federal protection and elevation to the National Register of Historic Places. The powers that be have been nearsighted and have prevented and stalled an initiative that could be an economic bonanza for Chester County where the school is located as well as a boost to the economy for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”***

LUHI, formed by a group of diverse and talented Lincoln University alumni in the fields of law, architecture, urban planning, and engineering, is prepared to assist the university and do its part to raise the necessary funds to preserve Lincoln's history embodied in its oldest structures for the nation, future generations and posterity. More information about LUHI, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization, may be found at [www.luheritage.org](http://www.luheritage.org).