

# ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED.




**DeAndre Steger**

Importance of Maintaining History in the Region

deandresteger1906@gmail.com

319-804-6477





# APA MWR Talk: The Importance of Maintaining History in the Region

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By DeAndre Steger

# Who I am / Role of MWRHC

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- I serve as a Co-Chairman of the Midwestern Regional Historical Commission
- Senior at the University of Iowa, Fall '23 Alpha Theta Chapter
- The purpose of the MWRHC is to document and promote history in the region, and my main project this year is Plots and Places

# How do you make a Plot or Plaza?

- Typically, explicit requests through the University's Fraternity and Sorority Life Department are required for a project to be considered
- Funding is usually crowdsourced and held within the University, but publicly accessible
- Corporate sponsorships are a vital part of funding and acquiring a College Chapter plot
- The typical duration is 5 – 10 years





# Every Attempt Is A Good One

- Just an hour a week recording + documenting chapter history could lead to massive gains in knowledge for everyone; mutually beneficial.
- Every day you add something, you contribute positively to the historical foundation of Alpha. That isn't something reserved for only the District Director, District Historian, or Chapter Historian
- Everyone starts somewhere; the hardest thing to do is start.

# Main Problems with Documentation

- Information is often exclusive to brothers / people who witnessed the project.
- There is limited context on the cost of these projects, and how the money was acquired
- If there's only one or two sources, it's hard to fact-check and cross-reference validity and accuracy

# Making Information Accessible

- Documenting history through pictures that are placed in a website; preferably an Alpha chapter website
- Ask other people about the process of making a website; domain needs to be maintained to be effective
- Communicate with brothers in your district to find information
- NPHC Offices on your campus usually have websites, and part of that should contain plots, plazas, or any other monuments related to your chapter. If they do not, ask them to include it.

# Standardizing Information / What makes a good dedication?

- Dedication – when the object was "released" to the public
- How long it took to create
- What the process of funding looked like, could be helpful for others
- What key people, departments, and organizations were responsible for the project's success

# UW-Madison Divine 9 Plot

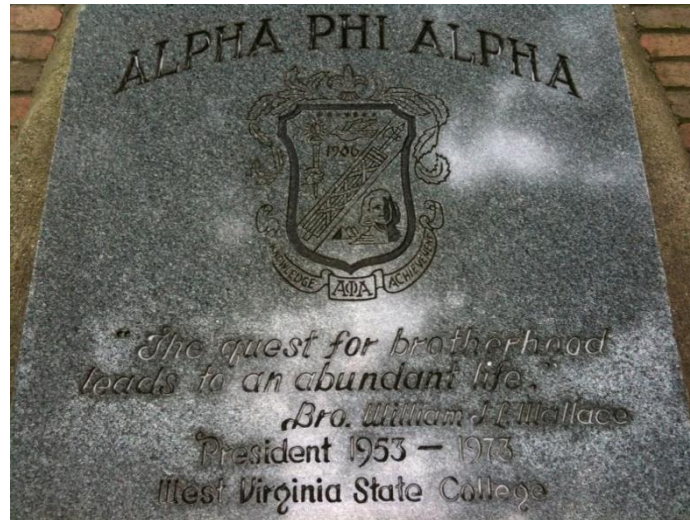


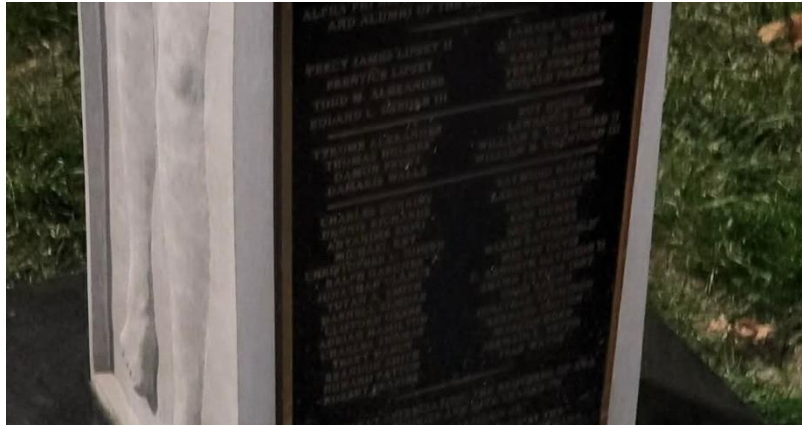
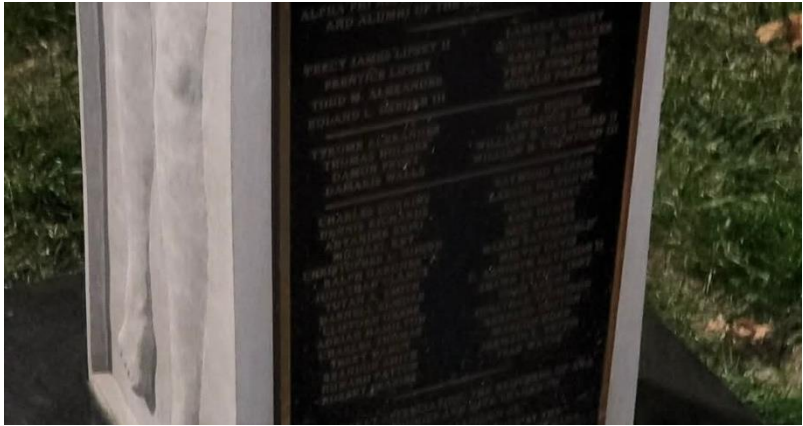
“The Divine Nine Plaza at UW–Madison stands as a landmark of recognition. For Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Gamma Epsilon chapter, it reflects decades of leadership, scholarship, and service on campus. The plaza’s creation was made possible through a dedicated fundraising campaign led by students, alumni, and campus partners who sought to honor the legacy of Black Greek-letter organizations and secure a visible space for their contributions. Their efforts resulted in the installation of nine granite markers, each representing an NPHC organization. For Alpha Phi Alpha, the marker symbolizes the fraternity’s enduring commitment of 80 years of service towards academic excellence, community uplift, and advocacy for Black students at UW–Madison. It acknowledges the work of generations of Alpha men who built community and advanced equity long before such recognition was common. By including Alpha Phi Alpha in this intentionally created space, the university affirms the fraternity’s lasting impact and the power of collective action to shape campus history.” – Clint Myrick, Wisconsin District Director (2026)

Dedicated on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Vilas Green East Campus Mall

# Alpha Zeta Chapter of West Virginia State University

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# Kappa Chapter Obelisk

# Kappa Chapter Divine 9 Plots

- Dedicated on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022





# Ohio State University NPHC Plaza

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- Dedicated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Idea was first introduced in 2016, took around 7 years for completion



# Illinois District

- Top Right, Bradley University Plots (MGC + NPHC)
- Bradley University Plots dedicated April 23, 2022
- Bottom Left, Illinois State University Plots (Not built yet)
- Estimated construction start of Fall 2026
- Estimated cost of \$300,000. Still fundraising





## ISU Divine 9 Plots

- Star Historical Example, includes key people, project timeline (2013 – 2021), possible cost (\$200,000 – \$300,000), and dedication date
- “Largest project of its kind [NPHC Plaza] in the Midwest” (Belton & Menk, 2023)
- Dedication date of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022





# Missouri District

# Partial Scope

- This presentation does not include all of the plots and plazas across the midwestern region, this was just a sample to introduce the concepts!