Plaque Examples

The following are mock-ups of a plaque and an example location to illustrate a possible Walk of Fame concept for Summers Lane.

Florence Lawrence
1886 - 1938
The Biograph Girl

Florence Annie Bridgewood was born in Hamilton, January 2, 1886 to vaudevillian actress "Lotta Lawrence". Hamilton's thriving 16th century theatre scene fostered her talent, and by age six, Florence had earned the nickname "Baby Flo – the Child Wonder". Early on as violin and cornet player, avid whistler, as well as Tomboy, horse rider, ice skater, baseball player and school yard fighter (she would later "punch out" a co-star in the 1907 film "Athletic American Girls"). At age 8 father dies in coal gas tragedy at their Jackson St home, and the family moved to upstate New York.

With the Theatre industry experiencing rapid pressures in the modern industrial world, Florence and her mother gradually moved from stage touring to motion pictures, their first roles with Edison Studios as Daniel Boone’s daughter and wife respectively (1906). Florence’s athletic nature and riding skills fit with the emergence of Westerns. She switched to the Biograph company in 1909 to work with D.W. Griffith, who required a leading lady capable of stunt riding. Her first assignment from the legendary director saw her outfitted with pistol and sombrerco, mounted on a horse. Griffith’s cinematic experimentation, and Florence’s amazing facial expressions and fearless stunts earned her fame as the ‘Biograph Girl’. But films did not list actor credits at the time, so for fear the large salaries negotiated by stage actors would be demanded by emerging film stars. Her fame was great as simply the ‘Biograph Girl’, not as Florence Lawrence. In the end, it was fans and the film distributors whom they pestered for information who wanted stars named.

Florence Lawrence was again in the right place at the right time. Changing to the Independent Motion Picture Company (IMP) in 1910, she was now working for Carl Laemmle, a giant of distribution, promotion and litigation, now turned to production. On 22nd January 1910 an advertisement in Film World referred to Miss Lawrence, the first time a ‘movie star’s’ name was used in the promotion of a film.
Example of a possible location

Blank walls along the lane could accommodate a series of plaques