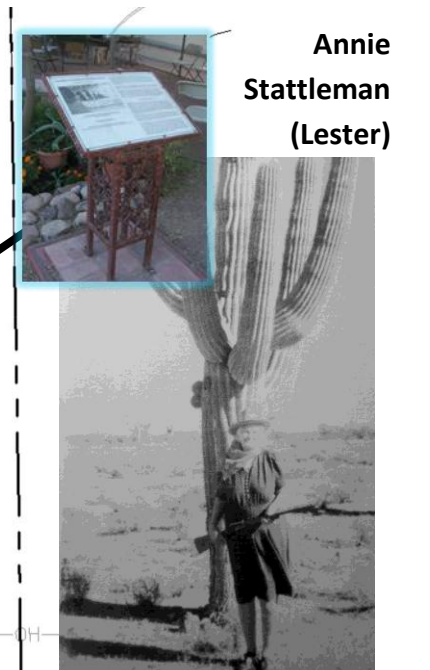
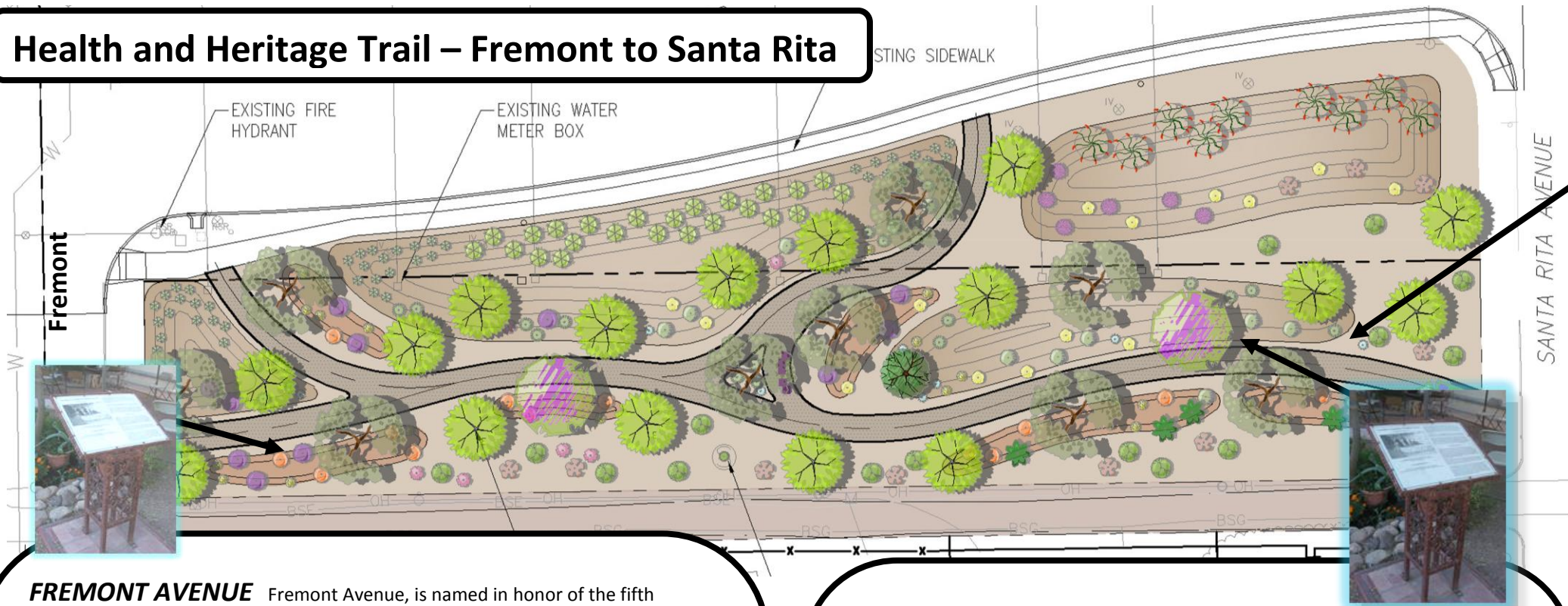
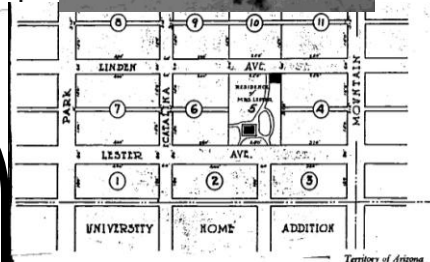


# Health and Heritage Trail – Fremont to Santa Rita



Annie Stattleman (Lester)



Lester/Santa Rita Homestead map



1920 – Lester Built House

AZ Historical Society  
Lester/Santa Rita

**FREMONT AVENUE** Fremont Avenue, is named in honor of the fifth governor of the Arizona Territory. John C. Fremont, nicknamed "The Pathfinder," was a soldier and politician, but foremost an explorer. Fremont was born to a French adventurer in Savannah, Ga., in 1813. He briefly attended the College of Charleston in 1828 but was kicked out. In 1833, he met Joel Poinsett, a prominent botanist who was the namesake for the poinsettia flower and the first U.S. minister to Mexico.

... Over the next decade or so, Fremont led five expeditions to the West, surveying and assessing the viability of a railroad route. His various travels took him across the Salt Lake desert, to California, and across the San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

... The new anti-slavery Republican Party nominated him for president in 1856, but he was easily defeated by Democrat James Buchanan. In the Civil War, he served as a major general in command of the Department of the West and contributed greatly to the support of the emancipation of slaves. From 1878 to 1883, he served as governor of the Arizona Territory, a position some historians say he was given to relieve his chronic poverty.

Fremont Avenue was originally named Nelson Street in 1896 by Lulu May Nelson, a real estate promoter. Certain parts of the street would later be named Catalina Avenue and "D" Street. Around 1906, Fremont Avenue first appeared on maps, and soon the whole alignment had that name. *(excerpted from: Street Smarts, David Leighton, AZ Daily Star)*

## THE HOMESTEAD

In 1898, a twenty-six year-old German-born woman named Anna Stattleman made claim to the 158-acre tract of land encompassing Park Avenue toward Campbell, from Lester Street north to Grant (formerly North Street). According to the official homestead documentation, Anna testified to the primary residence being "32' x 32', plus five chicken houses and a barn, with 10 acres fenced, a well, windmill, tank and other small buildings *Value \$1500.*" That residence was located in the area of Santa Rita and Linden.

In 1899, she married Frank Lester, who was the superintendent of Mammoth Mines. Anna rode in the wagons that traveled back and forth from the mines sometimes carrying gold.

Anna also owned "320 acres at Cortaro, 160 acres near Mission-Black Hills property at River Road."

*Excerpted from the "Jefferson Park Neighborhood's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration" pamphlet, Oct 17, 1998.*