

# HONEY BEE VILLAGE

Honey Bee Village is one of the largest Hohokam villages in the northern Tucson Basin. Lying near the base of Pusch Ridge in the Rancho Vistoso development, it was occupied from about A.D.750 to A.D.1300. This prehistoric village covers about 75 acres. The core area, consisting of approximately 12 acres, contains a ball court for social gatherings, a large walled compound, and a series of trash mounds containing artifacts that represent nearly 500 years of occupation. An estimated 150-200 pit house structures may exist at the village. The nearby Sleeping Snake Village, obliterated through modern development also contained a ball court and a large number of pithouses.

Archaeological excavations were conducted at the site in 1988 and additional excavations are planned prior to further development of the area.

Hohokam occupation of what is now Oro Valley appears to have reached its highest population prior to dramatic changes that occurred in the Classic Period after A.D. 1150. The compound at Honey Bee Village however, was most likely constructed during the Classic Period after several hundred years of settlement at the village. The site therefore, contains evidence of a lengthy sequence of habitation, farming and trading in the rich Sonoran Desert.

Preservation of the core area of one of this Hohokam village is essential to gaining a better understanding of the thousands of years of history in Oro Valley, and use of the site through educational and interpretive tours will be important in maintaining Oro Valley as a "community of excellence". The Pima County Preservation Bond projects (Question 4) includes funding for preservation of the core portion of the site.

