

PRESS RELEASE

TOWN ACQUIRES HISTORIC STEAM PUMP RANCH

April 27, 2007

Steam Pump Ranch—the birthplace of modern Oro Valley—has been officially acquired by the Town as the first step toward maintaining the property as a possible centerpiece for a future cultural and historic area. The announcement of the official acquisition was made today by Mayor Paul Loomis and Planning and Zoning Director Sarah More.

With the cooperation of Pima County, the Town was able to use 2004 County bond funds to purchase the northern 9 acres of the site located on the west side of Oracle Road, just north of the existing Home Depot center. The remaining southern 6 acres will pass to Town ownership while litigation between the previous owners continues.

“I can’t overstate the importance of this acquisition,” said Mayor Loomis. “We have long sought to secure this site so that future generations will understand the modern history of Oro Valley.”

“Along with the dedication of the center core preserve of Honey Bee Village in Rancho Vistoso,” added the Mayor, “we now have two of the most important historical sites in Oro Valley in public ownership.”

Steam Pump Ranch was established in the late 1800’s by George Pusch, a German immigrant who dug the well and built the pump to water cattle that were being

driven to market. The original steam pump and outbuildings remain at the ranch, but they have fallen into disrepair over the years.

The Town has already begun the process of developing a master plan for the site. Among other suggestions, the Town may consider using the ranch as a visitor's center or cultural attraction. Some of the buildings on the ranch site could be rehabilitated to meet current standards, said More.

In order to celebrate the Town's acquisition of Steam Pump Ranch, there will be a public event scheduled on the site in the next month, added More.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT SARAH MORE AT 229-4807