

Sahuarita, AZ: birth of a town

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The
Power of
Perspective

Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA.

The town of Sahuarita, AZ, just south of Tucson, was built in less than one decade, starting in 2001. Population grew from about 4000 in 2001 to about 25,000 in 2011.

March, 2001



This landsat image captures Rancho Sahuarita before most of the new construction took place.

March, 2011



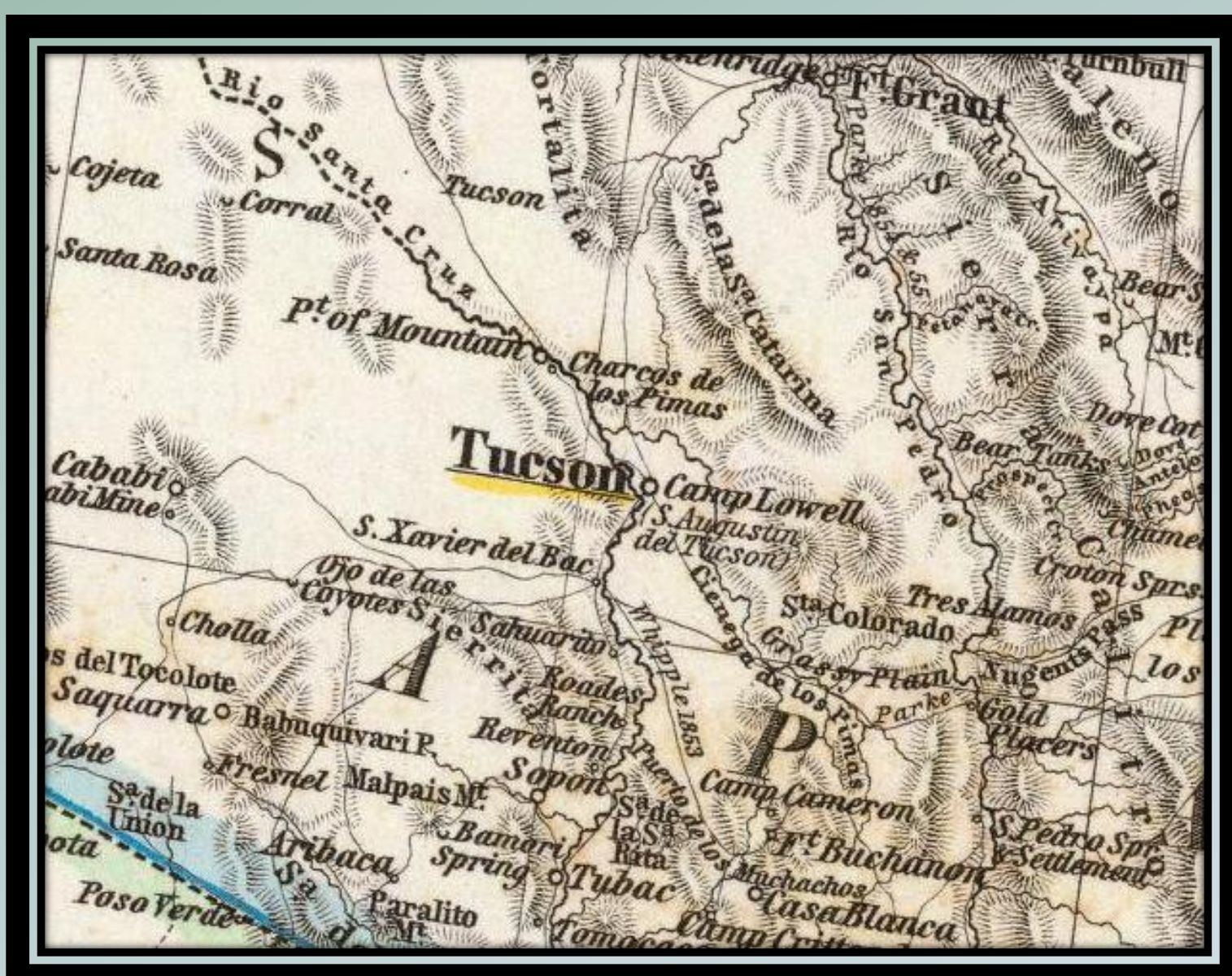
This image from 2011 clearly shows new housing developments in the area. The image is sharper due to improvements in remote sensing technology.

Sahuarita History

- Hohokam- 1st known inhabitants (200-1450)
- Sobaipuri- O'odham group (1400-1900)
- Spanish & Mexican control (1775 - 1853)
- Incorporation into the US (1854 -1874)
- Sahuarita Ranch (1879 - 1886)
- Town of Sahuarita founded in 1911 and incorporated in 1994
- One of the top 100 cities with the largest population increase from 2000-2006

What about water?

85% of current water use goes to mines and agriculture.
15% of current water use goes to golf courses and residential/commercial customers.
This water comes from an underground aquifer.



1875 Geman Map Indicates Sahuarita as "Sahuarito"- first known map to identify the area