

Figure 1. Schematic drawing illustrates spatial organization of modern Empire Ranch Headquarters with buildings, structures, and corral. Outlines of original 1871 adobe building (blue) and 100' x 100' adobe corral (green) are highlighted on plan. Drawing by author.

Figure 2. Six phases of main Empire Ranch buildings illustrating change and development around the Ranch corral. Phases span approximately 50 years from 1876 purchase by Walter Vail and partners to transfer to Boice family in 1928. Significant areas and structures undergoing change are identified in each phase. Drawings by author.

Figure 3. Phase 1 – 1876. Image A shows entrance to original four-room adobe building purchased by Vail and Hislop in 1876. Hislop's letter (Image B) to his sister describes layout of building with attached adobe constructed corral. Sketch (Image C) provides dimensions and intimates interior functions (hay and horse storage). Zaguán, or entrance corridor, offers only access into compound for both people and livestock. Note that orientation of Hislop's sketch is inverse of plan. Image A looking SE. Image A – Photograph A300-1, Empire Ranch Foundation Archive (ERF); Images B and C in the public domain.

Figure 4. Phase 2 – 1879. Image A presents earliest view of Rear Addition appended to southwest end of original building. Addition was built inside adobe corral and utilized part of its wall. Only openings in exterior wall of Rear Addition are windows. Image B, taken 20 years later, shows some windows on West side have been reconstructed as doors. Images A, B looking SE. Image A – Photograph 413-1, Image B – Photograph A536-(122), ERF.

Figure 5. Phase 3 – 1880-1882. Phase 3 represents largest building phase in Empire Ranch history. Image A, dating from late 1881 or 1882, illustrates numerous structures and buildings appended to adobe corral. Victorian Addition and Carpenter's Shop incorporate portions of the corral as building component. Foreman's Quarter's and Cook's Wing are constructed inside corral. Stable, two eastern corners of corral, and main gate in north wall are visible in Image A. Adobe Hay Barn, South of corral, is also constructed during this phase. John Harvey, Vail's second partner (Image B), stands inside corral before low adobe wall. This wall separates human-occupied zaguán from working corral and often holds riding equipment. Images A and B looking W. Image A – Photograph A412-1, Image B – Photograph 446-1, ERF.

Figure 6. Phase 4 – 1885-1893. With increased availability of dimensioned lumber, gable roofs are added above most ranch structures and buildings (Images A, B and C). Orange arrow in Image B marks door and wall separating zaguán from Stable. Image A shows Stable occupying southwest corner of corral. Yellow arrow marks inside corner of Stable's roof as it transitions from south to west side of corral. Children's Addition (Image C) is inserted later into southwest corner replacing western half of Stable. Images A, C looking SW. Image B looking S. Image A – Photograph BN91790, Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society Archives; Image B – Photograph A300-062, Image C – Photograph A300-037, ERF.

Figure 7. Phase 5 – 1893-1905. Development supports employee activities on corral's east side. Bunkhouse, built atop Carpenter's Shop, and Hired Man's House provide accommodations for single cowboys and employees with families, respectively (Images A and B). Farrier's Shop and Slaughterhouse created indoor spaces supporting livestock management and processing.

Bunkhouse, Farrier's Shop, and Slaughterhouse, all wooden buildings, replace most of eastern wall of adobe corral (Image C). Images A, B looking E, NE, respectively. Image C looking W. Image A – Photograph A536-(192), Image B – Photograph A536-(10), Image C – Photograph A536-(4), Courtesy of Special Collections, Empire Ranch Collection, University of Arizona Library, Tucson, Arizona (hereinafter UA).

Figure 8. Phase 5 – 1893-1905 (continued). Farrier's Shop and Cook's Wing anchor post-and-rail fence inside corral (Images A and B, arrows). In addition to employee and livestock activities, Heffner photographs record location of and access to Vail family and Cowboy outhouses. Image C illustrates wooden walkway (green arrow) exiting south end of corral between Children's Addition and Stable and ending at Vail family outhouse. The Stable's rear wall, last existing portion of adobe corral, is also visible. Cowboy outhouse (not so easily accessible) is outside and East of corral (Image D). Image A looking NW and Images B, D looking E. Image C looking E. Image A – Photograph A536-(152), Image D – Photograph 536-(93), Empire Ranch Collection, UA; Image B – Photograph 530-70, Image C – Photograph A510-095, ERF.

Figure 9. Phase 6 – 1905-1950. Except for Farrier's Shop (now Tack Room), 1910 fire destroys structures and buildings on corral's east and south sides including Stable, Slaughterhouse, and Bunkhouse/Carpenter Shop (Image A). Stable's (now Stone Corral) adobe wall is rebuilt with stone. Corral is rebuilt with post-and-rail fencing. Most wood-shingle roofs are replaced with corrugated iron. Rebuilt outhouses remain outside of corral until the late 1940s (Images A, B). Banning Vail adds roofs to shelter saddle racks (Image C). Image A, B, C looking W. Image A – Photograph A144-1, Image B – Photograph A121-1, Image C – Photograph B206-055, ERF.

Figure 10. 2015 aerial photograph illustrates present Empire Ranch Headquarters with buildings, structures and corral. Blue rectangle identifies original 1871 four-room adobe building North of corral. A green outline surrounds original footprint of adobe corral, now defined by post-and-rail fencing, Stone Corral, and Children's, Victorian, and Rear Additions. Courtesy of Pima Association of Governments.