

Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton
Chávez SRS – Preliminary List of Sites and Properties
April 21, 2010

San Francisco

San Francisco Labor Temple

2926 16th Street, San Francisco, California 94103

This location served as a Bay Area boycott organizing center and departure point for food caravans to Delano during the late 1960s.

St. Paul's Convent (Boycott House)

312 29th Street, San Francisco, California 94131

This building served as a boycott headquarters during the 1970s.

NFWA Office

2277 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94110

The NFWA maintained an office here beginning in 1966.

Oakland

St. Mary's Catholic Church Social Hall

707 Jefferson Street, Oakland, California 94607

This hall served as the site of the organizational meeting for the first CSO chapter that Chávez organized (Spring 1953).

Boycott House ("East Bay Huelga Headquarters")

568 47th Street, Oakland, California 94609

This house served as a strike/boycott support center during the late 1960s.

San Jose

CSO Chapter Office and Service Center

1402½ East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, California 95113

Chávez opened this office and service center in 1953. It would serve as a model for the service centers founded by the NFWA (and later the UFW) the following decade.

César and Helen Chávez Family Residence

2397 Summer (Street or Court?), San Jose, California 95116

César and Helen and their children lived here around 1952-1953. The house was the site of the meeting in which Fred Ross introduced César to the work of the CSO.

Boycott House

– location not yet known (San Jose, California)

Salinas

Hartnell Community College Athletic Field

Hartnell Street and College Drive, Salinas, California 93901

This was the site of a massive protest rally on August 2, 1970, in response to Salinas Valley growers' move to thwart the UFWOC by signing contracts with the Teamsters. It was the site of a second rally on August 23, 1970, to kick off a strike against Salinas Valley growers and to pledge nonviolent protest. In September 1979, it hosted another rally drawing 25,000 people to pressure Salinas Valley growers to sign new contracts with the UFW.

Mexican American Political Association Office

14 South Wood Street, Salinas, California 93905

The UFWOC borrowed and converted this office into its strike headquarters as competition with the Teamsters and strikes against Salinas Valley growers began in August 1970.

Monterey County Jail

142 West Alisal Street, Salinas, California 93901

Monterey County Judge Gordon Campbell jailed Chávez here between December 4 and December 24, 1970, because he refused to call off a boycott of Bud Antle lettuce (visitors included Coretta Scott King and Ethel Kennedy).

UFW Legal Offices

10 West Gabilan Street, Salinas, California 93901

Offices for UFW legal staff were located here, on the second floor, during the 1970s.

San Juan Bautista

Mission San Juan Bautista

406 2nd Street, San Juan Bautista, California 95045

Chávez retreated to this small mission town outside of Salinas to recuperate from a fast in August 1970 and ended up holding secret negotiations with Salinas growers.

El Centro Campesino Cultural

705 4th Street, San Juan Bautista, California 95045

Since 1978, the home of the Chicano theater troupe that developed as part of farmworker movement.

Sacramento

March Route, Delano to Sacramento

Delano, Ducor, Porterville, Lindsay, Farmersville, Visalia, Cutler, Parlier, Malaga, Fresno, Highway City, Madera, Chowchilla, Merced, Livingston, Turlock, Modesto, Manteca, Stockton, Lodi, Thornton, Courtland, Freeport, Hood, West Sacramento, Sacramento

Chávez and other union leaders planned this march—with the theme of “Pilgrimage, Penitence, and Revolution”—to coincide with the Lenten season of 1966 (March 17 to April 10), to reconnect the union leadership with workers in the fields, to raise national awareness of the farmworker movement, to push the strike beyond Delano, and ultimately to pressure Governor Pat Brown to help bring Schenley and DiGiorgio to the bargaining table. As the marchers approached Sacramento, the Schenley Company agreed to recognize the union and sign a contract.

Our Lady of Grace School

1990 Linden Road, West Sacramento, California 95691

This was the site of a major rally the night before the culmination of the March to Sacramento (April 9, 1966).

Stockton

St. Gertrude’s Catholic Church

1663 East Main Street, Stockton, California 95205

Dolores Huerta was active in this church when Father Thomas McCullough introduced her to Fred Ross.

Modesto

Graceada Park

401 Needham Street, Modesto, California 95354

A march from San Francisco’s Union Square to the Gallo Brothers headquarters in February 1975 drew nearly 20,000 participants and culminated here with a celebration of the company’s sudden willingness to help the UFW push for a state agricultural labor relations act.

Fresno

Mi Ranchito Cafe

– location not yet known (on California Avenue, Fresno, California)
The NFWA held its founding convention here on September 30, 1962.

El Centro Campesino Cultural

– address not yet known (North Clark Street and East Thomas Avenue, Fresno, California 93701)
A church at this location housed El Centro Campesino Cultural between 1969 and 1971.

Fresno County Jail

1225 M Street, Fresno, California 93721

In late July and early August 1973, this jail filled with hundreds of farmworkers and supporters, including members of a religious delegation and, soon, Dorothy Day; the prisoners formed a sense of solidarity in the jail. Daniel Ellsberg visited; Joan Baez sang. More than 3,500 hundred arrests that summer boosted morale and helped raise money.

Selland Arena, Fresno Convention Center

700 M Street, Fresno, California 93721

Site of UFW constitutional conventions, September 21-24, 1973, and August 15-17, 1975.

Visalia

Linnell Farm Labor Center

1436 North Mariposa Avenue, Visalia, California 93292

The Tulare County Housing Authority's Woodville and Linnell labor camps were among the earliest targets of the FWA; in the summer of 1965, the FWA organized a rent strike against the TCHA. The strike itself was a failure, but it did increase the organization's visibility and attracted some future leaders, including Doug Adair.

Porterville

Woodville Farm Labor Center

16153 Road 192, Porterville, California 93257

The Tulare County Housing Authority's Woodville and Linnell labor camps were among the earliest targets of the FWA; in the summer of 1965, the FWA organized a rent strike against the TCHA. The strike itself was a failure, but it did increase the organization's visibility and attracted some future leaders, including Doug Adair.

Delano

The Forty Acres

30168 Garces Highway, Delano, California 93216

The Forty Acres served as UFWOC headquarters from 1966 to 1970. Significant events that occurred here include Chávez's fast in the spring of 1968 and the signing of contracts with Delano growers on July 29, 1970.

Filipino Community Hall

1457 Glenwood Street, Delano, California 93215

In this hall on September 8, 1965, Filipino members of AWOC voted to go on strike against Delano growers. When NFWA members voted to join them, the hall served as joint strike headquarters. The hall hosted an important speech by Walter Reuther in December 1965, and Chávez announced his fast here on February 19, 1968. Senator Robert F. Kennedy made an appearance here on March 16, 1965. The hall was the site of regular Friday night meetings.

César and Helen Chávez Family Residence

1221 Kensington Street, Delano, California 93215

This house served as the first headquarters of the NFWA and is associated with the early efforts to chart the direction of the organization that Chávez and others would build into the UFW.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Meeting Hall

1015 Clinton Street, Delano, California 92315

On September 16, 1965, this church became the site of the vote in which NFWA members decided to join Filipino farmworkers in their strike against Delano growers.

People's Bar and Café

345 Glenwood Street, Delano, California 93215

This bar and pool hall served as a social gathering place for volunteers working in the Delano during the 1960s.

Richard Chávez Residence

630 Belmont Street, Delano, California 93215

Built by Richard Chávez and used as collateral for the loan with which the NFWA credit union began.

NFWA Office

102 Albany Street, Delano, California 93215

The union began renting the building at 102 Albany in order to move its offices out of César and Helen Chávez's garage in early 1963 and remained here until Reuther Hall at the Forty Acres opened in 1969.

NFWA Office

103 Asti Street, Delano, California 93215

The union rented two additional houses near the building at 102 Albany in order to expand its office space. Its offices remained here until Reuther Hall at the Forty Acres opened in 1969.

NFWSC Office (The "Pink House")

105 Asti Street, Delano, California 93215

The union rented two additional houses near the building at 102 Albany in order to expand its office space. Its offices remained here until Reuther Hall at the Forty Acres opened in 1969.

March Route, Downtown Delano

– route not yet known

On December 16, 1965, UAW President Walter Reuther joined Chávez, Larry Itliong, and hundreds of farmworkers as they marched through the streets of downtown Delano in defiance of a city council resolution passed the day before that prohibited demonstrations and marches. Reuther gave a rousing speech to the farmworkers which was recorded and reported by members of the national press.

Dolores Huerta Residence

137 Austin Street, Delano, California 93215

Huerta moved her family to Delano at some point in the mid-1960s. Although the history of Huerta's residence in Delano is unclear, the sacrifices and struggles she shared with family members and friends are a potential avenue of significance because of the light they shed on the farmworker movement as a whole.

Larry Itliong Residence

129 West 19th Place, Delano, California 93215

Itliong was a long-time resident of Delano before leading the AWOC into the Delano strike in September 1965.

Delano High School

1331 Cecil Avenue, Delano, California 93215

This school (auditorium) was the site of a well-known exchange between Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Kern County Sheriff Leroy Galyen in March 1966. Students at the school felt the impact of the strike.

DiGiorgio Corporation, Sierra Vista Ranch

369 Road 176, Delano, California 93215

The NFWA struck and picketed this 4,400-acre ranch between September 1965 and August 1966. On March 16, Senator Robert F. Kennedy joined the picket lines here. Farmworkers at the ranch elected the new UFWOC as their union representative in August 1966.

Delano Memorial Park

110 Lexington Street, Delano, California 93215

Chávez broke his famous first fast here on March 11, 1968, with Robert F. Kennedy at his side.

Stardust Motel

405 Cecil Avenue, Delano, California 93215

This motel was the site of negotiations between Chávez and the AWOC leadership at the beginning of the Delano strike (September 1965) and between Chávez and Cohen and the Giumarras in July 1970 (in room 44).

American Legion Hall

729 Kensington Street, Delano, California 93215

The NFWA used this hall for its annual membership meetings prior to 1965.

Church

404 Belmont Street, Delano, California 92315

This missionary church building was the site of NFWA Friday night meetings (including performances of El Teatro Campesino) prior to relocation of these events to the Filipino Hall.

Huelga School

– location not yet known (Delano, California)

The Huelga School was one of many services that the UFW (and National Farm Worker Ministry) provided to farmworker families. The school flourished under the direction of Chris Hartmire and Shelly Spiegel.

Bakersfield**Kern County Superior Court Building**

1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301

Approximately 350 farmworkers and supporters gathered here on October 19, 1965, to peacefully protest the arrest of Helen Chávez and other pickets. More than three thousand farmworkers showed up on February 28, 1968, to show sympathy for César, who was called to trial on the thirteenth day of his fast. Jerry Cohen would cite this as the event that turned the courthouse into farmworkers' "territory."

Kern County Fairgrounds

1142 South P Street, Bakersfield, California 93307

Site of a massive rally and strike vote against the Giumarra Company on August 3, 1967.

Giumarra Vineyards Corporation

11220 Edison Road, Bakersfield, California 93307

The Giumarra Company was the chief opponent of the UFWOC during the Delano strike.

Lamont**UFW Office**

10913 Main Street, Lamont, California 93241

UFW maintained regional office here in early 1970s.

Lamont Park

Palm Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, Lamont, California 93241

This was the site of a 1973 rally featuring Joan Baez; such rallies were a common but vital facet of the farm labor movement.

Weedpatch

John Kovacovich Ranch

Wheeler Ridge Road and David Road, Weedpatch, California 93307

This was the site of a 1973 picket line; such actions were a common but vital facet of the farm labor movement.

Arvin

Arvin Farm Labor Center (Arvin Federal Camp or Weedpatch Camp)

8701 Sunset Boulevard, Bakersfield, California 93307

This migrant labor camp (now known as Sunset Migrant Center) was established in the mid-1930s for Okie migrants. Kern County acquired the property in 1958; Kern County Housing Authority began operating it in 1965. The camp inspired John Steinbeck's portrayal of the Okie experience. It housed migrant farmworkers in the 1960s.

DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, DiGiorgio Farms

DiGiorgio Road and North Comanche Drive, Arvin, California 93203

This ranch was the site of an NFLU strike that began in 1947 and lasted for more than two years. The DiGiorgio strike inspired a number of innovative tactics, including the use of cars to surround the ranch's twenty-mile perimeter with "the world's longest picket line." In September 1965, the NFWA struck and picketed this same ranch. Farmworkers at the ranch elected the new UFWOC as their union representative in November 1966.

Keene

Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz

29700 Woodford-Tehachapi Road, Keene, California 93531

Chávez decided to relocate UFWOC headquarters here in 1971. La Paz is associated with one of the UFW's greatest victories—the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975—and with the modernization of the UFW.

Carpinteria

Carpinteria State Beach

5361 6th Street, Carpinteria, California 93013

Chávez and his family vacationed here before Chávez began organizing CSO chapters in the San Joaquin Valley in 1953, before he began his campaign in Oxnard in 1958, and before he returned to Delano to found the NFWA in 1962.

Ventura

Farm Labor Placement Service Office, U.S. Employment Service Building

255 South Laurel Street, Ventura, California 93001

Chávez led unemployed farmworkers from Oxnard to this office for forty days in a row in 1958 in order to document the abuses of the Bracero Program.

Oxnard

Our Lady of Guadalupe School

205 East 7th Street, Oxnard, California 93030

Chávez and his siblings attended this school in the late 1930s, suffering teasing for their lack of clothes and shoes.

Buena Vista Labor Camp

1608 East 5th Street, Oxnard, California 93030

One of the largest bracero labor camps in the country, with housing for 28,000 workers. Many of these workers sought assistance from Chávez in late-1950s.

César and Helen Chávez Family Residence

2645 Wright Road, Oxnard, California 93036

The Chávez family lived here during the late 1950s.

CSO Office

428 North Grant Avenue, Oxnard, California 93030

Chávez opened a CSO office in Oxnard in 1958 in the back of a CSO-run rummage store. By the end of 1959, the office was functioning as a hiring hall for Oxnard-area growers and provided a model for the hiring halls that the UFW would establish the following decade.

March Route, Downtown Oxnard

– route not yet known

In the spring of 1959, Chávez led marchers through the streets of downtown Oxnard to call attention to their campaign against the growers who were abusing the Bracero Program. This march, the first march in which farmworkers carried a banner of the Virgin de Guadalupe, gave Chávez a sense of how powerful marches could be for the farmworker movement.

NFWA Office

515 Cooper Road, Oxnard, California

The NFWA opened this office in 1966.

Los Angeles

CSO Headquarters

2701½ East 4th Street, Los Angeles, California 90033

Chávez occupied the main offices as executive director of the CSO between 1959 and 1962.

CSO Headquarters

213 North Soto Street, Los Angeles, California 90033

Chávez occupied the main offices as executive director of the CSO between 1959 and 1962.

César and Helen Chávez Family Residence

2457 Folsom Street, Los Angeles, California 90033

The Chávez family lived here between 1960 and 1962.

NFWA Office

1430 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90015

The NFWA maintained an office here in the late 1960s.

California Migrant Ministry Offices

1411 West Olympic Boulevard, Room 511, Los Angeles, California 90015

Rev. Chris Hartmire of the California Migrant Ministry maintained offices here.

Boycott House

2827 Winter Street, Los Angeles, California 90033

This boycott headquarters was run by Bill Chandler during the late 1960s.

Boycott House

3016½ East 1st Street, Los Angeles, California 90063

This location served as UFWOC offices in the late 1960s.

Boycott House

523 South Pacific Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90731

This location served as boycott headquarters during the late 1960s.

Safeway Store

– address not yet known (South Vermont Avenue and West 3rd Street, Los Angeles, California 90020)
One of hundreds of grocery stores boycotted during the 1960s and 1970s.

Borrego Springs**DiGiorgio Corporation, Borrego Springs Ranch**

– location not yet known (near Borrego Springs, California)
Target of NFWA and site of Chávez arrest in 1966.

Coachella Valley**March Route, Coachella to Calexico**

– exact route not yet known
The UFWOC undertook this nine-day march in July 1969 to solicit support for *la causa* from Mexican immigrants.

David Freedman Ranch

– location not yet known (administrative offices were in Thermal)
This was the ranch owned by Lionel Steinberg, who became well known for signing a contract with the UFWOC in April 1970 and for staying with the union in 1973.

Coachella**UFWOC Offices**

1337 6th Street, Coachella, California 92236
UFWOC maintained an office at this location in the late 1960s.

Public Park (unidentified)

– location not yet known (Coachella, California)
This park served as UFWOC strike headquarters in the Coachella Valley in 1973; the St. Louis delegation of religious leaders, which witnessed Teamster violence first-hand, stayed here.

Thermal**Coachella Valley High School**

83800 Airport Boulevard, Thermal, California 92274
Site of a rally and strike vote on April 13, 1973, at which more than one thousand UFW members voted to strike any grower who signed with the Teamsters.

Imperial Valley**Mario Saikhon Ranch**

– location not yet known (near El Centro)
Site of the fatal shooting of twenty-eight-year-old union member Rufino Contreras on February 10, 1979.

Calexico**UFWOC Office**

– location not yet known (Calexico, California)
Key site in the Imperial Valley, 1970s.

UFWOC Hiring Hall

– location not yet known (Calexico, California)
Key site in the Imperial Valley, 1970s.

UFWOC Health Clinic

– location not yet known (Calexico, California)

An important service provided by the UFWOC. Chávez envisioned the provision of health clinics and other service centers throughout California and beyond.

Yuma**Chávez Family Homestead**

– location not yet known (north of Yuma, Arizona)

The Chávez homestead included an adobe farmhouse where César lived with his parents and grandmother from 1932 to 1939.

Chávez General Store

– location not yet known (north of Yuma, Arizona)

This property included a grocery store, an auto repair shop, and a pool hall located about one mile from the Chávez homestead. César was born here on March 31, 1927.

San Luis**Dona Maria Hau Residence**

– location not yet known (San Luis, Arizona)

Chávez was staying at this home in April 1993 when he passed away in his sleep.

Phoenix**Santa Rita Center**

1017 East Hadley Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Chávez fasted here for nineteen days (twenty-four days total) in May and June 1972 to protest Governor Jack Williams's signing of a bill that limited farmworkers' rights to go on strike and boycott products. Thousands of farmworkers in Arizona arrived at the Santa Rita Center during these weeks to celebrate nightly Masses and participate in rallies.

Del Webb Towne House

100 West Clarendon Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Site of June 4, 1972, Mass and rally during which Chávez broke his twenty-four-day fast.

Tolleson**UFWOC's Arizona Headquarters**

9162 West Polk Street, Tolleson, Arizona 85353

This house served as UFWOC headquarters for Arizona in the late 1960s.

Wickenburg**Motel (unidentified)**

– location not yet known (Wickenburg, Arizona)

Chávez fasted here for five days before relocating to the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix in May-June 1972. The motel was likely the site of strategy meetings; during one of these meetings, Dolores Huerta insisted on saying “si se puede” in response to skeptics.