



*The Forty Acres in Delano, California served as the UFWOC and UFW headquarters. The service station building shown in the photo, was constructed in 1968 and provided services such as gasoline and auto repair to farm workers. Eventually, the facility would grow to include a health clinic and retirement village. The Forty Acres was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008 by the Department of the Interior. c. 1960s. Photo by Ruben Montoya/www.farmworkermovement.us.*

*This page is intentionally left blank.*

## Chapter 2: Historical Overview and Resources

*This chapter describes the importance of the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement to American history and culture and the sites associated with these stories.*

---

### Introduction

This chapter provides the historic context for identifying resources associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement and for assessing the significance of these resources as described in Chapter 3 of this study.

The historic context in this chapter is primarily based on the 2004 draft document titled, “Cesar Chavez and the Farm worker Movement in the American West Theme Study” prepared for the NPS by the University of Washington Department of History’s Preservation Planning and Design Program (Rast, Dubrow and Casserly 2004). Resources associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States were primarily identified through research conducted by the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) at California State University, Fullerton, under the leadership of Dr. Raymond Rast, on behalf of the NPS. In 2009 and 2010, the COPH identified and evaluated 84 sites in California and Arizona with historical significance related to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the American West. Sites were identified through primary sources archived within the Farm worker Movement Documentation Project, books, essays, oral history interviews, declassified FBI surveillance files, back issues of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) newsletters, and published secondary sources. The COPH conducted further field research to locate, evaluate, and document the sites, properties, and march routes identified. An additional 20 sites were also identified through the public scoping process.

### Historic Context Overview

This section provides an historical overview intended to illustrate the relevance, general relationships, and national, regional, or local importance of properties associated with Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) and the farm labor movement in the American West. It is divided into eight sections:

- I. Cesar Chavez’s early life and formative experiences in the American West, 1927-52
- II. Development of the agricultural industry, labor, and activism in California and the American West before 1960
- III. Cesar Chavez’s education as a community organizer in California and the emergence of Dolores Huerta, 1952-62
- IV. The organization of the Farm Workers Association in California, 1962-65
- V. The Delano grape strike in Kern County, California and across the U.S., 1965-70
- VI. The Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws in the American West, 1970-75
- VII. The modernization of the UFW and the broadening of the farm labor movement in the U.S., 1975-84
- VIII. Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era in California and across the U.S., 1984-93

A more detailed narrative can be found in *Appendix F: Historic Context, Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement*.

### I. Cesar Chavez’s Early Life and Formative Experiences in the American West, 1927-1952

The story of Cesar Chavez’s boyhood and early adulthood reveals much about why he became a successful labor organizer and social leader.

#### EARLY YEARS AT THE CHAVEZ FAMILY HOMESTEAD IN ARIZONA

Cesar Chavez’ paternal grandparents came to the U.S. in the 1880s from Chihuahua, Mexico. His

grandfather Cesario found work on the railroads and in the fields of Arizona, and in the late 1890s established a homestead in the North Gila Valley, twenty miles north of Yuma, Arizona.

Cesar's father Librado married Juana Estrada in 1924, and they purchased and operated a grocery, auto repair and pool hall business about a mile from the Chavez homestead. Cesar Chavez was born there on March 31, 1927. Five years later, debts and the Great Depression forced the young family back to the established family homestead.

During his boyhood years in the North Gila Valley, Cesar learned lessons that would stay with him for the rest of his life, including his commitment to nonviolence, his devout Catholicism, and the importance of sacrificing and sharing even the most meager resources with others who had less.

Cesar also experience racism and discrimination as a young child, branded as a "dirty Mexican" at the public school in Yuma. Such experiences taught Chavez how discrimination made its targets feel excluded and inferior.

### **LIFE AS MIGRANT FARM WORKERS**

During the depression of the 1930's, the Chavez family fell behind on tax payments and lost possession of the family homestead. The family joined the stream of migrants moving to California, and Cesar Chavez discovered the realities of life that migrant workers and their families faced every day.

The family moved to follow the crops, from Oxnard to Brawley, Beaumont, Hemet and Delano to pick beets, carrots, peas, cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, watermelons, cherries apricots, lima beans, corn, chili peppers, grapes, prunes, cucumbers tomatoes and cotton. They used *el cortito*, the short-handle hoe that forced farm labors to twist and stoop as they moved down the rows of crops.

In California, racism often was more abrasive than in Arizona as Mexican Americans were routinely accosted by border patrolmen, interrogated and searched by police officers, kicked out of restaurants and movie theaters, and cheated by employers who considered them too docile to object.

The Chavez family did not readily accept the harsh realities of their new situation. They stood up for their fellow workers and walked off the fields if someone was treated unfairly. The family's militancy stemmed in part from their somewhat

unusual position as former landowners with strong social ties. As early as 1941, Chavez was exposed to the labor movement's efforts to organize farm labors in California, through organizers for the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America (UCAPAWA).

In 1944 at age 17, Chavez left the fields and volunteered for the Navy. After two years he received an honorable discharge and returned to his family in Delano. Two years later, Cesar married Helen Fabela. For several years they sought work in a number of locations, moving their growing family from farm work in Delano to sharecropping in San Jose, lumber work in Crescent City, and back to San Jose in 1952.

The family decision to move back to San Jose put Cesar on a path that soon would intersect with those of Father Donald McDonnell and Fred Ross, two men who would change the course of his life.

## **II. Development of the Agricultural Industry, Agricultural Labor, and Agricultural Labor Activism in California and the American West Before 1960**

This section examines the development of agriculture in California, the evolution of the agricultural labor force, and the recurrent efforts during the first half of the twentieth century to organize migrant farm labors. In doing so, it reveals that farm labor leaders such as Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla, Larry Itliong and other members of the farm labor movement owed a part of their success to the struggles and the development of strategies that had taken place during the decades leading up to the 1960s and to the evolving historical context within which they worked.

### **THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA**

As a result of many decades of Spanish and Mexican land grants, California, when it entered the Union in 1850, it had an agricultural economy dominated by massive landholdings. By 1900, almost two-thirds of all arable acreage in the state was concentrated in fewer than five thousand estates, run by "growers" rather than "farmers" and operated as "factories in the field." At the same time, thousands of emigrants worked modest landholdings, and by 1900, three-fourths of all farms in the state were less than 175 acres in size, mostly on marginal, arid lands.



The Chavez Family Homestead site in the Gila River Valley northeast of Yuma was Cesar Chavez's childhood home. The family acquired 100 acres of land in 1909, built an adobe farmhouse and cultivated the land. Today, only remnants of the adobe walls remain. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, c. 1960s.



The adobe farmhouse faced this canal and the fields on the opposite side. Photo by: NPS, 2010



This portrait of Cesar Chavez was taken at his 8th grade graduation. This was his final year of formal schooling before he went to work in the fields full time. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1942.

Throughout the early 1900s, government regulations and subsidies worked to the advantage of the largest growers, creating conditions ripe for the use and abuse of immigrant and migrant labor, evolving over time from Chinese, to Japanese, Filipino, and Mexican immigrants. Eventually the Depression and Dust Bowl of the 1930s sent hundreds of thousands of Americans from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and elsewhere to California looking for work.

Migrant farm workers' living and working conditions throughout the first half of the twentieth century were brutal. The work was exhausting, and it required considerable amounts of skill, dexterity, efficiency, and stamina. Farm workers also had to contend with summertime heat and lack of drinking water, sanitation facilities and housing, as well as low wages and the shortage of work.

### **ORGANIZING AGRICULTURAL LABOR**

Farm workers facing such living and working conditions began organizing in the American West as early as 1884, when Chinese hop pickers in Kern County, California, went on strike for higher pay.

The first attempt to forge a multi-ethnic alliance emerged just after the turn of the century. In 1903, approximately 800 Japanese and Mexican beet-field workers in Oxnard united to organize the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association. Racism and the union movement's focus on organizing along craft lines kept these efforts from securing the institutional and financial support they needed to survive.

Throughout the early 1900's, various labor organizing efforts started, grew, but dropped out of favor when success eluded them. These efforts included the International Workers of the World (the IWW, or Wobblies) and the Wheatland Riot; Mexican farm labor organizing in the 1920s; and the groups that grew into the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union (CAWIU) in the 1930s. The CAWIU's strategies of inter-racial organizing, reliance on grassroots organizing, recruitment of women, and emphasis on orderly, nonviolent conduct contributed to the union's success and helped explain how the union could command the fierce loyalty of at least fifteen thousand San Joaquin Valley farm workers in October 1933. However, the union failed to win formal recognition from a single grower, and started to decline.

The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America (UCAPAWA), founded

in July 1937, picked up where the CAWIU left off. Union leaders deliberately recruited diverse organizers. Rank and file members of the union pledged not to discriminate against a fellow worker because of creed, color, nationality, religious or political belief. In 1939, the UCAPWA negotiated perhaps the first contract signed by a grower and a union in the history of California's agricultural industry. By 1940 the union's national membership totaled more than 124,000 workers, 40,000 of whom worked in the fields. Cesar Chavez' father Librado became a new recruit in 1941.

The National Farm Labor Union (NFLU) was another key organizing effort in the 1930's and 40's, with its origins in the protection of the rights of sharecroppers in the South. By the 1940's the union redirected its energy toward agricultural wage workers and began organizing in California. In 1947 it focused on the working conditions of farm labors employed by the Di Giorgio Fruit Company. In the strike that ultimately was organized against the DiGiorgio company, the union sought endorsement from prominent individuals, and pioneered the strategies of boycotting specific agricultural products such as grapes, and picketing grocery stores which sold those products ("secondary boycotts"). The strike persisted for two and a half years, but ultimately collapsed because the NFLU had no means of cutting off DiGiorgio's supply of labor, brought in legally from Mexico through the Bracero Program.

Established by Congress in 1942, the Bracero Program was designed to provide growers with a reliable source of labor during the labor shortages of World War II. Congress continued to extend the program until 1964, when its termination cleared a path for the farm workers' successes of the 1960s and '70s.

### **III. Cesar Chavez's Education as a Community Organizer in California and the Emergence of Dolores Huerta, 1952-1962**

During this time period, Cesar Chavez gained education and training as a social activist, and formed friendships and alliances with Father Donald McDonnell, Fred Ross, Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla, and farm workers who would join him in the struggle to form an effective farm labor union.

## **CESAR CHAVEZ AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION (CSO)**

Cesar Chavez moved to the Sal Si Puedes barrio of San Jose in 1952, worked in a lumber mill and in the fields, and soon met Donald McDonnell, a young Catholic priest who sought to minister to braceros and other migrant farm workers. McDonnell introduced Cesar to a world of ideas including the writings of Mohandas Gandhi that would shape his personal philosophy, his approach to labor organizing, and his commitment to social justice.,

Also in 1952, Cesar helped Fred Ross bring to San Jose the Community Service Organization (CSO) idea that Ross had started in Los Angeles. The intent of the CSO was to help its members to deal with issues related to civil rights, voter registration, housing discrimination, and police brutality.

Cesar became chairman of the CSO voter-registration drive. He became successful enough at standing up for the rights of his community members that he was accused of being a Communist, as happened to many political and social leaders in the 1950s. Cesar turned to his Catholic beliefs and colleagues to help defend him against these suspicions and accusations.

Chavez's success in registering voters and establishing the San Jose CSO chapter resulted in a job offer as a CSO staff member, with responsibilities to organize campaigns in Union City, Oakland, and the San Joaquin Valley.

## **THE RISE OF DOLORES HUERTA AND OTHERS AS COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS**

In 1955 Fred Ross began to organize a CSO chapter in Stockton, where one of his first contacts was a colleague of San Jose's Father McDonnell, Father Thomas McCullough. When Ross asked McCullough to put him in touch with potential CSO organizers, the priest introduced him to 25-year-old Dolores Huerta.

Dolores Huerta grew up in Stockton, where she developed an awareness of economic and racial injustice. By the 1950s she had several children, teaching credentials, and a desire to find a way to fight social injustices. Ross offered her the opportunity she sought. She agreed to work with the CSO, and organized voters and joined Ross in efforts to reform the police department, to get better treatment for Mexican Americans at the county hospital, and to have sidewalks built in the barrio.

The CSO work also attracted the attention of Chicanos such as Gilbert Padilla. Padilla was the son of migrant farm workers. He escaped the fields but experience discrimination in his other work. In the late 1950s he joined the CSO efforts. Padilla volunteered for the organization from 1957 to 1961 and then joined Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta as the organization's only paid staff members.

## **CHAVEZ'S TRANSITION FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZER TO LABOR ORGANIZER**

Cesar Chavez continued to work with the CSO through the 1950s, organizing in the towns of the San Joaquin Valley. As he organized new CSO chapters, he set up service centers, and began to see that helping people could be an organizing technique – that people who received help from an organization would be loyal to it. His interest in organizing farm workers also grew, in contrast to the urban focus of the CSO for which he worked.

In 1958, the United Packinghouse Workers union offered the CSO \$20,000 to organize a chapter in Oxnard. Chavez took the job, and learned as he talked to farm workers in Oxnard that the Bracero Program, designed to import workers from Mexico to fill labor shortages, was instead being used to deny work to long-time farm workers in the Oxnard area.

Chavez documented the deceptive practices, organized a boycott of local merchants, organized sit-down strikes in the fields, put pressure on public officials, and organized marches. He realized that publicity could be used to his favor, and essentially “discovered the power of the march” to motivate people.

The Oxnard organizing effort resulted in an agreement with the growers to hire people at the CSO office, which became a model for the hiring halls created by the United Farm Workers the following decade. By 1959, the Oxnard CSO chapter had become an agricultural labor union in everything but name.

The success of the Oxnard CSO chapter in organizing farm workers led to conflicts with the AFL-CIO, which had just begun its own effort to organize agricultural labor in California. The conflict developed over several years, during which the AFL-CIO chartered the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) and brought in Dolores Huerta and Larry Itliong, but ultimately failed to gain a following among Mexican American farm workers,



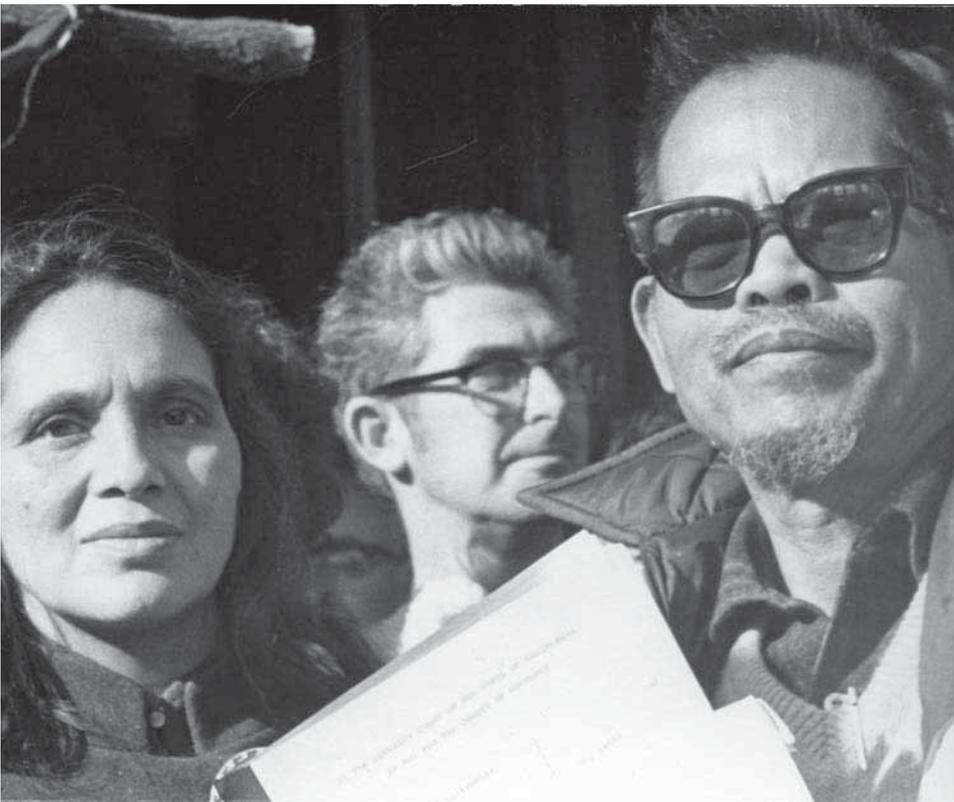
Hop pickers at the Durst Ranch near Wheatland in Yuba County, California included children. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1913.



Durst Ranch Hop pickers in their camp organize to strike near Wheatland, California. A bumper crop of hops at the Durst ranch and advertisements promising work to anyone who wanted it brought in close to 3000 men, women, and children to work as pickers in 1913. When the living conditions and poor wages led IWW activists to call for a strike, the ranch owners called on the sheriff to put it down. A confrontation took place on August 3, 1913 and two lawmen and two migrant workers were killed. The Wheatland Riot drew unprecedented levels of attention to the plight of agricultural laborers, led to the creation of the California Commission of Immigration and Housing, and gave the movement its first martyrs. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1913.



Members of the Community Service Organization pose for a group photo. Second from right; Cesar Chavez, Front row center; Fred Ross Sr., Saul Aulinsky; far left and Helen Chavez, third from the right in back. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, c. 1950s.



Dolores Huerta and Larry Itliong, shown here in the 1970s, held key organizer positions with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) when it was chartered by the AFL-CIO in 1959 to organize farm workers in California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, c. 1970s.

the single largest group of farm workers in California.

Cesar Chavez continued to be interested in organizing farm workers; the CSO was reluctant to shift from their urban and civic focus. Cesar accepted the position of executive director of the CSO in 1959, with hope of having greater influence over the organization.

During his three year tenure as executive director of the CSO, Chavez guided the organization to continued gains, developed relationships with members of the Mexican American Political Association and other civil rights activists, and earned a reputation as one of the most important civil rights leaders in the American West. By 1962, the CSO had grown to 22 chapters, helped tens of thousands of Chicanos register to vote, led thousands of Mexican immigrants through the naturalization process and provided Chicanos with a sense of power within the political system.

However, the CSO board and membership remained unwilling to support Chavez's farm worker organizing agenda, wanting to maintain the CSO's focus on urban and civic issues, not on the plight of rural labor. Chavez resigned his position in 1962, and moved his family from Los Angeles to Delano to begin the creation of a viable agricultural labor union.

#### **IV. The Organization of the Farm Workers Association in California, 1962-1965**

This period covers the initial efforts to organize a farm labor union, from the time Cesar Chavez left the CSO in 1962 to the time of the Delano grape strike of 1965.

With a sense of dedication, a willingness to sacrifice, and no source of income, Cesar and Helen Chavez and their eight children moved to Delano where there were supportive family and a stable population of farm workers to organize.

Chavez was aware that despite 80 years of trying, farm workers had been unable to form a union strong enough to counterbalance the power of the agricultural industry. Chavez was challenging a deeply entrenched way of life, a system that benefited growers but denied farm workers dignity, security, and a share of the industry's wealth.

#### **FORMATION OF THE NFWA**

Chavez was convinced of the importance of organizing first—developing a real community of farm workers and providing mutual benefits to strengthen it—before pushing for contracts and calling for strikes.

Cesar Chavez did not work alone. His wife Helen worked to support the family, his brother Richard helped in numerous ways, his sister Rita and her husband loaned money, his cousin Manuel joined in the efforts, and Fred Ross provided support. The Rev. Chris Hartmire of the California Migrant Ministry (CMM) assigned Rev. Jim Drake and his wife Susan to work with Cesar in Delano. Ultimately, Dolores Huerta and Gil Padilla agreed to leave paid positions with the CSO to co-found the new union, which they called the Farm workers Association (FWA).

Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Gil Padilla, Manuel Chavez, Julio Hernández, and Jim Drake formed the team that created the union. They sought to form a union that would be guided from the bottom-up, which meant delaying any thoughts of strikes and contracts.

By the end of the spring of 1962, the team had begun to develop a strategy for promoting the FWA. First, they called their organization an “association” and focused on the services it would provide, in the belief that support would be rewarded with loyalty. Second, they organized house meetings to ask farm workers what their concerns were and what services they needed. Farm workers talked about wages, the price of food in company stores, work conditions and the abuses they suffered at the hands of labor contractors.

By the fall of 1962, Chavez and the other organizers had built support among enough farm labor communities to plan a founding convention for the union. The convention was held in Fresno where the team presented a plan that included a minimum wage, unemployment insurance, collective bargaining rights, services such as a life insurance plan, a credit union, a co-op, and a hiring hall. They agreed to develop a constitution, set dues, and elect officers. They elected Cesar Chavez as president; Dolores Huerta, Gil Padilla, Julio Hernández, and Rodrigo Terronez as vice-presidents; and Antonio Orendain as secretary-treasurer.

During the following months, Chavez and the other officers worked to implement their plan. By early

1963 the FWA was a successfully functioning organization. It operated under a constitution, collected dues, and offered a variety of services to its membership. By 1965, the FWA had grown to 1,200 members. Chavez thought the FWA would be ready to sustain strikes and win contracts by the fall harvest of 1968. Meanwhile, Filipino farm laborers in Delano, most of whom were AWOC members, voted to go on strike in September 1965, beginning what would become a five-year campaign to bring the California table grape industry and 70,000 farm workers under union contracts.

## **V. The Delano Grape Strike in Kern County, California and Across the U.S., 1965-1970**

This section of the study focuses on the most important period in the modern history of the farm labor movement in the American West. It highlights the central role that Cesar Chavez played in the strike but it also reveals how others, including Filipino leaders such as Larry Itliong, political figures such as Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., union leaders such as Walter Reuther, students and urban supporters continued to define and strengthen the farm labor movement.

### **LARRY ITLIONG INITIATES THE DELANO GRAPE STRIKE**

In 1965, a series of wage issues emerged between growers and Filipino workers throughout Southern California, with the Filipinos offered lower wages than Mexican workers. Larry Itliong and Ben Gines of the AWOC demanded the same pay as other workers, but were not successful. Itliong considered calling for a strike, but there was little support among the larger unions for a strike by Filipino farm workers. Nevertheless, on September 8, 1965, the Delano-area local of the AWOC met for a strike vote at the Filipino Community Hall, and despite warnings about the sacrifices that could be involved, the majority of Filipino farm workers voted to go on strike.

### **THE FWA JOINS THE DELANO GRAPE STRIKE**

The FWA board (now the National Farm Worker Association, or NFWA) offered Itliong their support, endorsed by a general membership vote on September 16 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Delano. A huge crowd overwhelmingly voted to strike.

The Filipino Community Hall in Delano became the shared AWOC/NFWA strike headquarters. Growers and labor contractors had often segregated Filipino and Chicano farm workers into separate picking crews and exploited ethnic animosities to break up labor disputes. Soon after the strike began, however, the Filipino Community Hall became the scene of regular inter-ethnic meals for those working the picket lines, and Friday night meetings of all AWOC and NFWA members. Inter-racial alliances, as well as alliances with religious groups, civil rights activists, and student groups, were crucial.

For Chavez, the picket line was a recruiting tool, an organizing tactic, a classroom, and a means of claiming space. The NFWA quickly developed a system of “roving picket lines,” to use a limited number of picketers to cover a wide geographic area.

During the first few weeks of the strike, growers, foremen, and law enforcement officers acted violently towards those on the picket line. Still, Chavez preached nonviolence. A close observer and supporter of the civil rights movement, he saw the positive national response to civil rights activists’ nonviolence in the face of police brutality the South. Chavez decided to recruit activists from the civil rights movement to teach farm workers nonviolent tactics for the picket line. Students and other volunteers quickly answered Chavez’s call.

The NFWA sought support on college campuses, at churches, and from other unions, civic groups, and social organizations. Chavez recognized the importance of symbolic acts of protest and defiance, as did others such as Luis Valdez, who founded the theatrical troupe El Teatro Campesino to entertain pickets, boost morale, and train strikers.

### **EMERGENCE OF THE GRAPE BOYCOTT**

Despite the wave of support and emergence of unexpected resources such as El Teatro Campesino, the farm workers failed to make any headway with the Delano growers before the end of the fall harvest. In December, the NFWA launched its first boycott in about a dozen cities in California and the West. High profile leaders began to take notice and support the strike, including Walter Reuther, the president of the United Auto Workers, and Senator Robert Kennedy, who was instrumental in bringing Senate hearings on farm labor issues to Delano in 1966.

### **THE 1966 MARCH TO SACRAMENTO**

In 1966 the NFWA decided to organize a march to Sacramento through most of the San Joaquin valley’s



The founding convention of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), Fresno, California. At the convention, the team that created the union presented a plan that included a minimum wage, unemployment insurance, collective bargaining rights, services such as a life insurance plan, a credit union, a co-op, and a hiring hall. They agreed to develop a constitution, set dues, and elect officers. They elected Cesar Chavez as president; Dolores Huerta, Gil Padilla, Julio Hernandez, and Rodrigo Terronez as vice-presidents; and Antonio Orendain as secretary-treasurer. From left to right: ---, Dolores Huerta, ---, Cesar Chavez. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1962.



El Teatro Campesino, founded by Luis Valdez in 1965, performed skits at the Friday night meetings at the Filipino Hall, on the picket lines, and along march routes during the Delano grape strike. The skits, which featured humorous characters and dialogue, would entertain and educate audiences while dramatizing the plight and cause of the farm workers. In 1971, the company moved to San Juan Bautista, California, where they continue to present theater works to generate social change. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: John Kouns, 1966.

farming towns, as a strategy to keep farm workers from returning to the vineyards in the spring. The march, then the longest protest march in U.S. history, started at the NFWA offices in Delano, and ended 300 miles to the north on the steps of the state capitol building in Sacramento, on Easter Sunday.

As the marchers approached Sacramento a few days before Easter, Chavez learned that the Schenley Corporation wanted to sign a contract. On Easter Sunday, a crowd of more than 4,000 farm workers and supporters thronged to the steps of the capitol building to listen to speeches by Huerta and Chavez and to celebrate a remarkable victory.

The march to Sacramento represented a convergence of ideas Chavez had put into action in Oxnard and elsewhere. The march incorporated religious symbols and practices, it exemplified one of the most effective means of nonviolent protest, it relied on community support, and it attracted favorable publicity (due in part to the media coverage of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama the previous year). The march also gave the NFWA leadership a chance to reconnect with farm workers along the San Joaquin Valley, and it strengthened the solidarity of the thousands of people who participated.

The successful outcome with the Schenley Corporation was not repeated with other growers, and the strike continued against other growers.

### **EVOLUTION OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

After the Delano to Sacramento march, the NFWA refocused its boycott to cover other agricultural companies, and to expand into New York, Chicago, and other cities in the east. The DiGiorgio Company, the primary focus of this boycott, attempted to bring in strikebreakers organized under the Teamsters, but were pressured into holding union elections. The NFWA and AWOC merged (renamed the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, UFWOC) in order to improve their chances to win the election, and indeed did win the right to represent the field workers at the DiGiorgio Company.

The union's successes brought a new wave of favorable publicity across the country and prompted a telegram from Martin Luther King, Jr., acknowledging that "Our separate struggles are really one—a struggle for freedom, for dignity, and for humanity."

After the victories in the DiGiorgio elections, the UFWOC engaged in two smaller but still significant campaigns. The first involved the boycott of Perelli-Minetti Company's vineyard in Delano in 1966, and resulted in the signing of a contract in 1967, followed almost immediately by contracts with six other wineries in California. This gave the UFWOC a total of 11 contracts (all of them negotiated by Dolores Huerta) covering 5,000 workers, about two percent of the state's agricultural labor force.

The second campaign involved NFWA organizers in helping Tejano members of the Independent Workers Association organize a 400-mile march from Rio Grande City to the Texas state capitol in Austin.

### **THE FORTY ACRES**

Around the time that the DiGiorgio campaign was concluding, Chavez decided to move forward with plans to develop a network of service centers for farm workers modeled after the service center in San Jose. He wanted the centers to provide medical clinics, co-op auto repair shops and gasoline stations, credit unions, and health and welfare services. He enlisted union volunteer Leroy Chatfield to develop these plans. Chatfield raised funds and the union acquired 40 acres of land two miles west of Delano in the spring of 1966, dubbed "the Forty Acres".

Although the Forty Acres land was barren and dusty in the summer heat, Chavez envisioned a model service center. By the beginning of 1968, Cesar's brother Richard had built a gasoline and vehicular repair station. Under Richard's supervision, and with a donation from the United Auto Workers, UFWOC volunteers completed construction of an administrative building the following September, and a health clinic shortly thereafter.

The final component of the Forty Acres, retirement housing for Filipino farm workers, was not completed until 1975.

### **THE TABLE GRAPE STRIKE**

In the summer of 1967, the grape strike continued, focused on the Giumarra Brothers Fruit Company, the largest table-grape grower in the state. When the strike and boycott tactics used in previous strikes proved to be ineffective, the union decided to boycott the entire table-grape industry simultaneously, beginning in January 1968.

The boycott campaign owed its success to several factors, including the decision to send farm workers themselves to the cities and to the forefront of the

boycott organization. During the next two years, these union members established boycott centers in more than 40 major cities and worked with boycott committees in hundreds of smaller towns. This boycott experience took people out of the fields and gave many in the farm labor movement, particularly women, new confidence in their own organizing abilities.

By the spring of 1968, growing numbers of farm workers desired a more confrontational approach. As reports of violent activity and property damage caused by frustrated farm workers mounted, Chavez decided to fast until union members renewed their pledges of nonviolence. He set up a cot and a few religious items in a small room at the service station building at the Forty Acres, where he remained for most of the 25 days of his fast.

The fast attracted attention, and thousands of farm workers arrived at the Forty Acres with pledges of support and nonviolence. When Chavez was convinced that the workers' commitment to nonviolence had been renewed, he announced an end to his fast. UFWOC leaders planned a Mass and celebration at the Forty Acres and arranged to have Senator Robert Kennedy fly in to be at Chavez's side for the breaking of the fast.

### **END OF THE DELANO GRAPE STRIKE**

By the middle of 1969, it was clear that the grape boycott was having a substantial impact on California growers. As the first grape crop was ripening the following spring, Lionel Steinberg, the owner of three of the largest vineyards in the Coachella Valley, agreed to sign a contract with the UFWOC. In July, the Giumarra Company entered into negotiations, and 27 other growers came to the table.

The negotiations resulted in three year contracts that included an increase in pay, the creation of union-run hiring halls, an increase in piece-rate bonuses, the establishment of joint farm labor-grower committees to monitor and regulate pesticide use, and the funding of the Robert F. Kennedy Health and Welfare Plan for union members. The Delano contracts brought 85 percent of the table-grape growers in California under union contract, an unprecedented achievement in the history of the U.S. agricultural industry.

## **VI. The Salinas Strike, the Fight Against the Teamsters and Agricultural Labor Laws in the American West, 1970-1975**

The next period of the farm labor movement saw the UFWOC face familiar challenges, complicated by unprecedented violence and force. Continued success in the fields and the undeniable power of the boycott brought important victories during this period, including the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), the first law in the continental United States that recognized the rights of farm workers to organize and negotiate contracts with growers.

### **FIGHT AGAINST THE TEAMSTERS**

On the same day that the union finished its negotiations with Delano grape growers, Cesar Chavez learned that lettuce growers in the Salinas Valley had signed contracts with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. To the UFWOC, the issue was not just a rival union, but that the Teamsters signed contracts without the knowledge or consent of the farm workers they claimed to represent, and were willing to use violence to maintain their position.

The UFWOC quickly developed a counter-strategy to the Teamsters. They accelerated their organizing in the Salinas Valley, where farm workers picked 70 percent of the nation's iceberg lettuce as well as broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, celery, strawberries, and artichokes. The workers took to the streets in large marches and rallies beginning in August, 1970, and voted to strike. The threat of a strike and boycott led to negotiations among the unions, but they were unproductive. Cesar Chavez undertook another fast in response to the threats of violence, but ended the fast after six days when his health deteriorated.

### **THE SALINAS STRIKE**

When it became clear that the Teamsters contracts with the Salinas Growers-Shippers Vegetable Association (GSVA) would stay in place, the area's farm workers rallied, renewed their commitment to strike, and pledged to remain nonviolent. The atmosphere grew tense as the GSVA obtained injunctions that prohibited picketing, local growers hired armed guards, and Teamsters physically intimidated UFWOC members. Other acts of violence followed, while local law enforcement officers sided with the growers.



Farm workers protested outside the DiGiorgio headquarters during what were perceived as being unfair union elections during the Delano grape strike. In the face of an injunction limiting the number of picketers who could assemble, Chavez suggested that farm workers gather at the edges of Di Giorgio ranches and pray instead of picket. A shrine was added to a station wagon, seen in the photo, to support these efforts. Photo courtesy of [www.farmworkermovement.us](http://www.farmworkermovement.us). Photo by Jon Lewis, c. 1966.



On March 10th, 1968, Cesar Chavez breaks his 25-day fast by accepting bread from Senator Robert Kennedy, Delano, California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Richard Darby, March 10, 1968.



Senator Robert Kennedy and Dolores Huerta address the press at the end of Cesar Chavez's 25-day fast, Delano, California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Richard Darby, 1968.



El Malcriado was the union newspaper and the cover of this issue dated June 15, 1970, features Richard Chavez displaying a box of Coachella Valley grapes featuring the union label. Photo courtesy of [www.farmworkermovement.us](http://www.farmworkermovement.us). c. 1970



Cesar Chavez walks to the Monterey County Jail, surrounded by supporters, Salinas, California, December, 1970. Chavez was jailed for 20 days for refusing to obey a court order to stop the boycott against Bud Antle lettuce. Manuel Urunday is in the far right corner. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Cris Sanchez, 1970.



A demonstration outside of a barber shop against the arrest and imprisonment of Cesar Chavez, Salinas, California. Men hold signs that read "LIBERTAD POR CHAVEZ" (Freedom for Chavez). Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Cris Sanchez, 1970.



Ethel Kennedy (center), widow of Senator Robert Kennedy, arrives at the Monterey County jail to visit Cesar Chavez amidst the jeers of an anti-UFW mob, December 6, 1970. To her left is Dolores Huerta. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Gene Daniels, 1970.



In addition to supporters of Cesar Chavez, anti-UFW protestors staged demonstrations outside of the Monterey County Jail. Photo courtesy of [www.farmworkermovement.us](http://www.farmworkermovement.us). Photo by Hub Segur, 1970.



Cesar Chavez speaks to striking United Farm Workers (UFW) members, Salinas, California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1970.



Members of the United Farm Workers (UFW) wave flags at the edge of a field during the lettuce boycott, Salinas, California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1970.



A demonstration against Teamster involvement with farm workers in front of Teamster headquarters, Los Angeles, California. Picketers carry signs that read "Don't Fight Unite" and "We Support the UFWU." Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Doyle, 1973.



Photograph showing the granting of the National Charter for the United Farm Workers Union. Photo courtesy of [www.farmworkermovement.us](http://www.farmworkermovement.us). Photo by: Jon Lewis, 1972.



Senator Edward (Ted) Kennedy, at podium, speaks during the first constitutional convention of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW), Fresno, California. Behind him stands his first wife, Virginia Joan Bennett. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1973.

The injunctions and mounting acts of violence convinced the UFWOC to pull farm workers away from the picket lines and instead focus on a boycott of non-UFWOC lettuce. Boycott organizers fanned out to 64 cities in North America.

The GSVA went to court to stop the boycott, and succeeded in obtaining an injunction against the boycott of its lettuce. Chavez defied the order, and was incarcerated at the Monterey County Jail in Salinas for contempt of court. While Chavez was in jail, the union maintained a constant vigil, with masses, rallies, and national media coverage, which escalated with two prominent visitors, Coretta Scott King and Ethel Rose Kennedy. After 20 days he was ordered released by the California Supreme Court.

The boycott continued until the growers promised to negotiate with the UFWOC, and when negotiations broke down, the lettuce boycott began again.

### **EVOLUTION OF THE UFW**

While the organizing and boycott activities continued in Salinas, the union needed to administer the contracts that had already been signed. The union's leaders lacked experience administering large contracts, which required coordinating the election of ranch committees, ratifying the contracts, setting up hiring halls, verifying farm workers' seniority, administering the medical plan and life insurance program, and coordinating the collection of dues and the payment of taxes. Cesar refused to accept the administrative help offered by the AFL-CIO because he preferred to have farm workers learn the administrative tasks and build their capacity. UFWOC members at all levels struggled with their tasks, but Chavez was committed to the creation of a democratic union in which farm workers themselves would wield power and make decisions rather than rely on professional union administrators.

The union's growth paved the way for its admission into the AFL-CIO as a fully independent affiliate, renamed the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), in February 1971.

### **THE MOVE TO LA PAZ**

When Chavez learned that Kern County was trying to sell the 187 acre former site of the Kern County Tuberculosis Hospital in the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains, he contacted a union supporter who had offered to help the union buy its own ranch someday.

They acquired the property, and Chavez renamed the place Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz (Our Lady Queen of Peace), or "La Paz". Chavez viewed the property as a place to retreat and plan strategy, a way to reduce his involvement in day-to-day union operations, and a space for a union training center, and he valued the peaceful and communal atmosphere reminiscent of Franciscan missions.

The decision to move the UFWOC's central administrative offices and staff residences to La Paz met some resistance from other union leaders, including Larry Itliong, who thought that the move would distance Chavez and other officers from farm workers, particularly the Filipino workers in Delano. Itliong opposed the union's emerging structure, and resigned in 1971.

The move to La Paz was accomplished in 1972. The full-time population of La Paz fluctuated between 100 and 150 individuals, most of whom lived in the old hospital's staff housing or in trailers. In addition, farm workers came to La Paz for training and volunteers passed through on their way to their assignments.

### **UNION SUCCESS IN FLORIDA**

Other campaigns continued, including a prominent organizing drive in Florida. The UFW sent Manuel Chavez to organize the agricultural workers in the citrus groves of Minute Maid, a subsidiary of Coca-Cola. Coca-Cola recognized its vulnerability to a boycott, and signed a contract in 1972 with little protest.

The union's visible success in Florida led to a political initiative by a coalition of corporate growers and shippers, and anti-union groups, who joined the American Farm Bureau Federation and their allies in state offices to sponsor legislation that limited union voting rights to year-round employees, banned harvest-time strikes, banned boycotts, and, in some states, banned negotiations over pesticide use. Legislatures in Kansas, Idaho, Oregon, and Arizona passed these bills. UFWOC organizing was successful in defeating similar bills in Oregon and Florida.

### **ARIZONA FAST OF 1972**

When the Farm Bureau bill passed in Arizona in 1972, Chavez and others arrived to support ongoing organizing and lobbying work, which had been led by Dolores Huerta. The well-known slogan "Si se puede!" emerged in this period from Dolores

Huerta's insistence on not saying "No se puede," rather "Si se puede!" (it can be done).

When the Arizona governor signed the Farm Bureau's bill, Chavez began a fast, most of which was conducted at the Santa Rita Community Center in Phoenix's south-side barrio, with farm workers gathering each evening to attend Mass, sing union songs, talk about unionization, and meet with prominent visitors such as Senator George McGovern and Coretta Scott King. The fast had the same mobilizing effect on farm workers that the Delano fast had in 1968. Chavez decided to end the fast after 24 days on June 4, the two-year anniversary of Robert Kennedy's assassination.

After the anti-union bill became law, UFW leaders organized a recall campaign against the Arizona governor. This campaign, while unsuccessful, nevertheless demonstrated tremendous public support and launched unprecedented numbers of Mexican Americans and Navajos into political office.

### **PROPOSITION 22 IN CALIFORNIA**

A similar anti-union bill was placed on the ballot in California in 1972. Despite being considerably outspent by pro-grower organizations, the UFW and its allies in California soundly defeated the bill. Unionized farm workers in California and across the country awakened to the political strength of their solidarity.

### **UFW SETBACKS**

The UFW's political victories of 1972 were impressive, but they came at a significant cost. Organizing activity in the fields came to a virtual standstill, and the hard-won three-year contracts with the table-grape industry were nearing expiration. The Teamsters moved in, with the political support of President Richard Nixon and proposed contracts directly intended to undermine UFW gains, against the will of farm workers whom they claimed to represent.

In April 1973 when growers signed contracts with the Teamsters, UFW members voted to strike any grower who signed with the Teamsters, beginning one of the most turbulent periods in the history of the farm labor movement. By the time Chavez ended the union's strikes against table-grape growers five months later, two UFW members had been killed, hundreds more injured, and more than 3,500 arrested for violating court injunctions against picketing and other demonstrations of protest. The teamsters used

violence, and often the local law enforcement agencies sided with the Teamsters and growers.

Chavez's prediction that the Teamsters would capture the table grape industry held true, but the UFW strike continued. Chavez reminded union members of the importance of nonviolence as the violent treatment of strikers continued. In August, a young picket captain named Nagi Daifullah was knocked to the ground, suffered fatal head injuries and died on August 15. The next day, shots fired at pickets from a passing truck killed 60-year-old union member Juan de la Cruz. The sudden deaths, so close together, sent shock waves through the farm labor movement. As the union mourned, Chavez and the other union leaders agreed to call off all picketing until law enforcement agencies agree to provide for their safety. The UFW then shifted its dwindling resources to the boycott, targeting California's non-union table grapes and lettuce and the wines of Ernest and Julio Gallo.

By then, the union was almost a shadow of itself. During the strike of 1973 the UFW lost 90 percent of its contracts, dropping from 150 to 12 (which covered only about 6,500 farm workers), and its membership rolls dropped from 55,000 to 10,000. Yet the union's members remained committed to the struggle, and its boycott organizers remained spirited.

Despite skeptics' conclusions that the union's battle against the alliance of growers and Teamsters was hopeless, the boycott of non-union table grapes, lettuce, and Gallo wine gained momentum. By the end of 1974, over 10 percent of the country's adult population had stopped buying grapes and lettuce.

### **CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT**

The union's leaders realized that the boycott alone would not force growers to recognize the union or allow elections. To beat the Teamsters and gain leverage with the growers, the union needed a law that would level the playing field and regulate the players. Agricultural workers were not covered under the National Labor Relations Act, the federal law that governed most labor relationships. At various times, this exemption was used by both unions and growers when it served their purposes.

In California, the November 1974 election of Jerry Brown as governor was seen as the beginning of a new era of possibility for the farm labor movement. After a major UFW-organized march to Sacramento, Governor Brown agreed to try to forge a bill that



The educational center at La Paz was named in honor of Fred W. Ross. Photo courtesy of [www.farmworkermovement.us](http://www.farmworkermovement.us). Photographer unknown, 1979.



Today, the building at La Paz that housed the Fred W. Ross Farmworker Educational Center has been renovated and named "Villa La Paz" as part of the National Chavez Center. The facility is still used for training, education, meetings and capacity building. Photo: NPS, 2011.



Supporters of the UFW march through the streets of Phoenix carrying signs, crucifixes, and banners with Our Lady of Guadalupe on them to the mass that ended Cesar Chavez's 24-day "Fast for Justice", which took place at the Santa Rita Center. Joseph Kennedy III is shown in center, next to the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Chavez decided to end the fast on June 4, the two-year anniversary of Robert Kennedy's assassination. As many as five thousand farmworkers arrived at a Phoenix hotel for a memorial Mass in Kennedy's honor, a brief statement from Chavez, and a rally. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, June 4, 1972.

would be acceptable to the state's influential growers and farm workers.

By the end of May, Chavez knew that he would get what he wanted: binding, timely, secret-ballot elections; the right to boycott; voting rights for seasonal workers; protection for organizers in the fields; and the establishment of a government agency to certify election results and enforce the law's provisions. Growers, for their part, were satisfied that the legal framework would curtail the constant disruptions of strikes and boycotts that hampered their harvests and cost the industry millions of dollars. They were pleased, too, with the creation of a five-person supervisory board appointed by the governor.

On June 5, 1975, Governor Brown announced a remarkable political achievement—the signing into law of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA). The bill marked a victory for Brown as well, one of the first significant accomplishments of his administration.

## **VII. The Modernization of the United Farm Workers and the Broadening of the Farm Labor Movement in the U.S., 1975-1984**

After the passage of the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA) —which carried with it the explicit promise of fair and timely elections for farm workers seeking union representation and contracts—Chavez looked ahead to future challenges. He had developed a broad social vision, and wanted not only to negotiate union contracts, but to build health clinics and service cooperatives, address the public health and environmental safety problems caused by pesticides in the fields and engage politically to address discrimination faced by the farm workers. He also saw the need to reorganize and professionalize the union to enable it to meet the needs of their membership. At the same time, the state and the nation were becoming more politically conservative, creating an atmosphere in which these social goals would be difficult to achieve.

### **1,000-MILE MARCH**

Governor Jerry Brown's signing of the ALRA marked a proud moment for the farm labor movement, but growers also regarded it as a victory. Implementation of the law was plagued by conflict, contested elections, charges of unfair labor practices, lawsuits, and the limits of a new, inexperienced, and underfunded enforcement agency.

In July, 1975, the UFW organized a 1,000-mile march from San Ysidro north to Sacramento, then south again to La Paz, in order to publicize violations of the new law and create new opportunities for organizing. The 59-day march and its events succeeded in spreading the news of the ALRA among the state's farm workers, and it built momentum for upcoming elections. The march also was used to aid the effort to ban *el cortito* (the short-handled hoe) from the fields of California. The march rejuvenated Chavez and the farm labor movement.

### **PROPOSITION 14**

The union's leaders decided to put the key deficiencies of the ALRA, including lack of funding and experienced staff, and two possible remedies, before the state's voters. They prepared a ballot initiative that, if approved, would require the legislature to adequately fund the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) every year and require growers to allow all union organizers equal access to workers in the fields. In the summer of 1976, union volunteers collected signatures from more than 700,000 supporters, and put Proposition 14 on the November 1976 ballot.

However, corporate agribusiness interests launched a major media campaign against Proposition 14, and succeeded in casting the ballot measure as an attack on private property rights, and the initiative was soundly defeated.

### **UFW EMERGES AS DOMINANT UNION IN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE**

After a long, difficult year in which most of the union's energy and resources went into driving the campaign for Proposition 14, filing complaints against growers, preparing for elections, and haranguing the farm-labor board for its lack of progress, the UFW finally found a cause for celebration and a reason for optimism. In March 1977, Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons announced that the International Brotherhood was giving up its claims to field workers and that it would not seek to renew most of its remaining contracts covering farm workers in California. The announcement marked the end of the bitter, wasteful struggle between the two unions. With a membership approaching 40,000, the UFW in 1977 had become the dominant union in California agriculture.

Organizing campaigns and election drives continued to swell the union's membership rolls to a peak of more than 100,000.

When union contracts with lettuce growers in the Imperial and Salinas valleys were set to expire in 1979, the UFW insisted on negotiating with the entire industry at once so that growers under contract would not suffer a competitive disadvantage. Nearly 5,000 lettuce-pickers working on eight large ranches walked off their jobs, starting the union's first major strike in almost four years and shutting down one-third of the nation's iceberg lettuce production.

Despite the fatal shooting of union member Rufino Contreras at the Mario Saikhon Ranch, the farm workers' commitment grew, and by fall, the growers had signed contracts. This was one of the union's greatest victories. Lettuce-pickers under union contract became the highest paid field workers in the country, and veteran union members and recently-organized farm workers alike saw what they could accomplish through unified, nonviolent effort.

### **UFW ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH AND CHALLENGES**

For several years, the union's leaders had been aware of mounting internal divisions over issues such as union leaders' various duties, the degree of Chavez's own influence over day-to-day operations, salaries for union leaders and staff, and the allocation of resources in political campaigns, legal battles, social services, and field organizing.

The contracts signed with growers who had operations in the Salinas Valley and Imperial Valley propelled the union into a new phase, in which the UFW evolved into a modern union with a well-defined management structure and an organizational system capable of handling tens of thousands of union members. The UFW leadership adopted a "team-management" model, requiring each board member to take command of one area of the union's operations. It relieved Chavez of the need to make all decisions, and was based on individual responsibility, accountability, and, "systematic and intensive communication."

Cesar continued to view his fight as more than a struggle for union recognition and contracts. La Causa was a labor movement, one that had evolved into a modern labor union, but it also was a social movement, one that sought dignity for farm workers, Chicanos, and other marginalized groups. Under Chavez's leadership, the union began to participate in the campaigns of politicians identified as allies. Chavez also began exploring the idea of a broader "Chicano lobby" in Sacramento and Washington,

D.C., that would advocate the interests of all Mexican Americans.

During this time, a number of leaders and staff members who thought that the UFW could no longer be both a labor union and a social movement decided to resign, and not always on good terms. Some internal critics thought that the UFW was becoming too bureaucratic and falling out of touch with its roots as a social movement. Others thought that the union remained too close to its roots and that it needed the guidance of a professional management team. Others left because they thought that it was not doing enough to support grassroots organizing among farm workers out in the fields. Still others disagreed with the union policy of paying staff members as if they were volunteers rather than professional managers.

Divisions between the executive board and local union representatives in the Salinas Valley hurt the union as well. Local leaders who wanted more help with local services unsuccessfully challenged the elections at the union's convention in 1981. With the media coverage of internal UFW conflicts, growers began to sense that the UFW was weakening. They became more aggressive in obstructing organizing drives, contesting elections, and stalling contract negotiations. The original ALRB leadership and staff had been replaced with more conservative members, and election monitoring was reduced. In the conflict another union member was killed, this time at a union election in 1983 at a dairy ranch near Fresno.

### **BOYCOTT AGAINST UNRESTRICTED PESTICIDE USE**

By the end of 1983, the union's strength was waning and its organizing efforts were spiraling downward. The union had difficulty attracting votes, getting elections certified, and persuading growers to negotiate contracts. The absence of new contracts limited resources and created the impression that the union was not worth voting for. Membership in the union plummeted to less than 40,000.

In the face of this spiral, the union decided to focus on the environmental and health risks associated with the hundreds of millions of tons of chemical pesticides dumped on grapes and other crops each year.

The union had opposed the unrestricted use of pesticides since the late 1960s. The UFW's opposition to unrestricted pesticide use provided a common cause with environmental and consumer safety groups. While 300,000 farm workers across



Protesters rally in support of farm workers at a Big Star store in Atlanta, Georgia. Left to right Ron Roberts (CWA), John Wright (President of Atlanta Labor Counsel), Jim Lynch, James Bond (backs to camera), City Councilman elect Bill Coleman, (SNCC Organizer) Bob Thompson, two amalgamated clothing workers of America organizers. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Iarden Failey, 1973.

A nighttime picket by members and supporters of the UFW of a boycotted store, location unknown, Circa 1970s. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Paul Ramirez, c. 1970s.



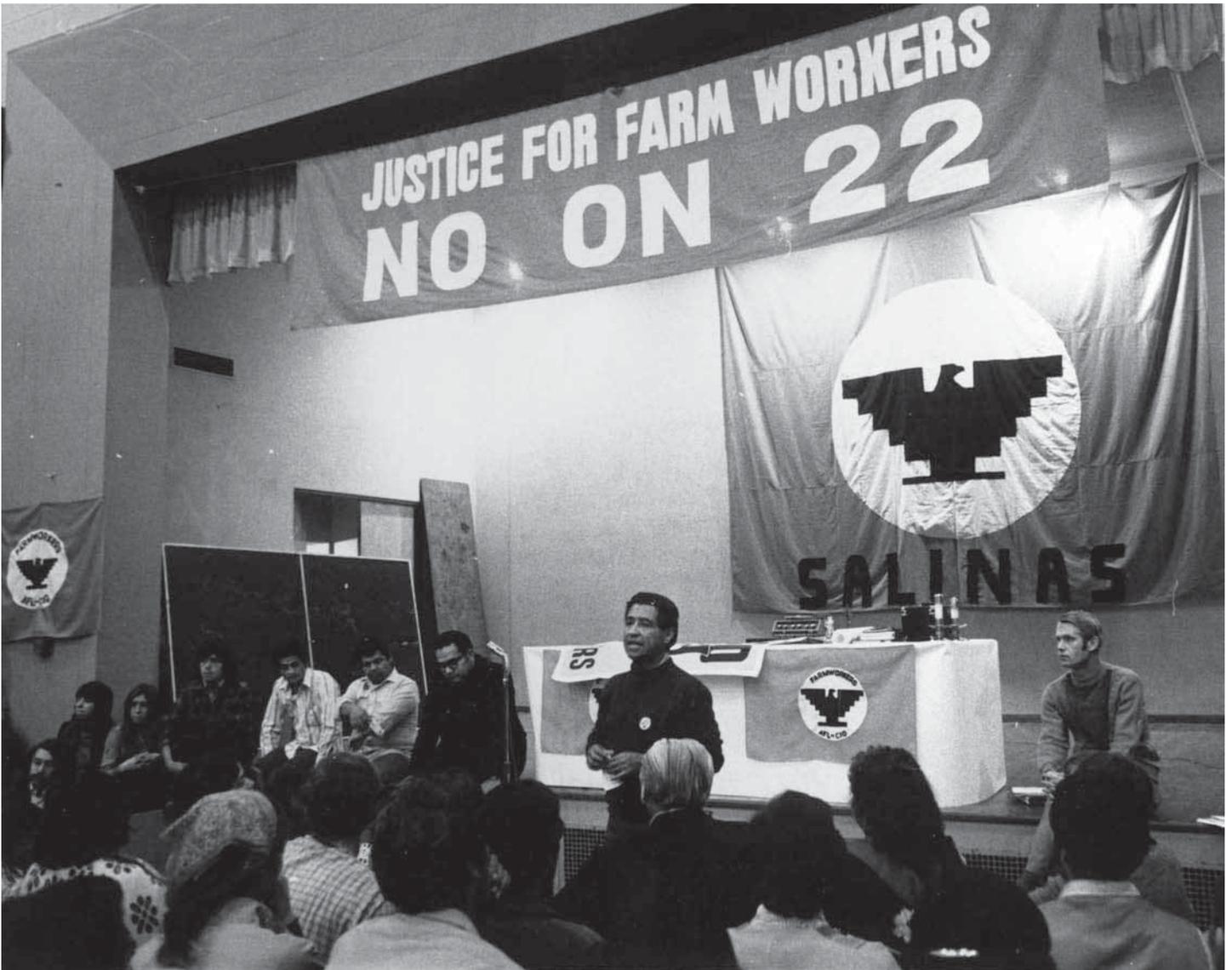
Supporters of the UFW Gallo Wine Boycott demonstrate in front of a liquor store, location unknown. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, c. 1970s.



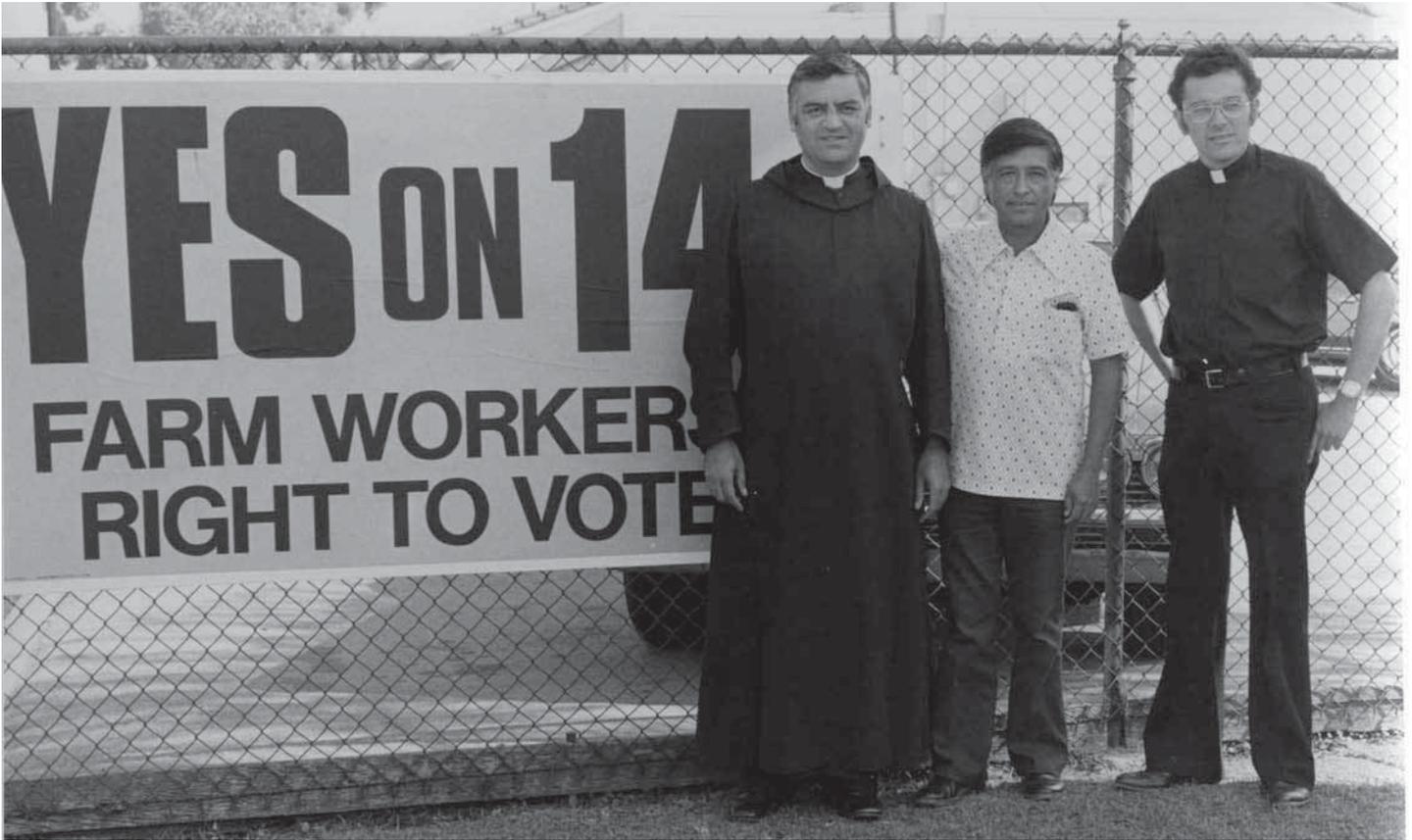
Richard Chavez speaks during an outdoor rally at the Farm Bureau National Convention, Los Angeles, California. Left to right: Richard Chavez, LeRoy Chatfield. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Glen Percy, 1972.



Dolores Huerta, surrounded by United Farm Workers supporters and with Richard Chavez standing behind her, speaks to the press outside of the Farm Bureau National Convention in Los Angeles, California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Glen Percy, 1972.



Cesar Chavez speaks at a rally at Lincoln Park opposing Proposition 22, Salinas, California. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photo by: Cris Sanchez, 1972.



Cesar Chavez stands with two unidentified priests in front of sign in support of Proposition 14 that reads "YES ON 14 - FARM WORKERS RIGHT TO VOTE", location unknown. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1976.

the country suffered illnesses caused by pesticide exposure every year, millions of Americans ate grapes and other produce items contaminated with pesticide residues. With high expectations of support from a wide range of interests, Chavez called for a national boycott of California grapes in June 1984. This campaign would help define the union through the rest of the decade.

## **VIII. Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement in a New Era in California and Across the U.S., 1984-1993**

This section of the historic context examines the last decade of Chavez's life and the battles that the UFW faced during that time. The UFW never regained the strength it had in the 1970s, yet Cesar was never discouraged. According to Chavez, the most important battle already had been won: "In truth, hundreds of thousands of farm workers in California, and in other states, are better off today because of our work. And Hispanics across California and the nation, who don't work in agriculture, are better off today because of what the farm workers taught people—about organizing, about pride and strength, about seizing control over their own lives."

The union's new boycott of grapes took off, using computer-generated mailing lists, modern offset-printing equipment and mass mailings urging sympathizers to boycott California grapes until growers agreed to negotiate with the UFW and meet its demand to stop using pesticides known to have caused cancer in laboratory animals.

Cesar continued to make speeches with grace and eloquence, maintaining his broader focus on the union's fight against multiple injustices, especially poverty, racism, corporate welfare, the failure of the state to enforce the law, and the poisoning of the environment.

The table grape boycott was much harder to sell in 1984 than it had been in 1968 and 1973. Organized labor was reeling from the loss of manufacturing jobs and the political climate. The antiwar activists had grown up, developed careers, and their priorities had changed.

Yet the pesticide issue did not go away. In 1985, as many as 1,000 people became ill after eating California-produced watermelons that had been sprayed with Aldicarb, an illegal pesticide. In 1986, 120 citrus workers at the LaBue Ranch in Tulare

County suffered burns when they came into contact with a combination of chemical pesticides that had not been approved by agriculture regulators. In 1987, twenty-seven farm workers in Fresno County were treated for symptoms of pesticide poisoning—rashes, dizziness, eye irritation, nausea, and respiratory difficulties, and new cancer clusters were identified in other San Joaquin Valley towns, including Delano.

The union produced and distributed 50,000 copies of a short documentary titled *The Wrath of Grapes* in 1987. It conveyed the stories of families whose children were born with birth defects or later developed cancer as a result of pesticides Chavez and other union leaders also continued to deliver speeches, lead marches, and participate in rallies throughout California and the rest of the country.

### **FAST AGAINST CANCER-CAUSING PESTICIDES**

As the table grape boycott entered its fourth year, Chavez sensed a need to refocus himself, the union, and its supporters on the campaign and its deeper meaning. Chavez decided to begin a new public fast, pledging to fast until table grape growers agreed to negotiate new contracts and eliminate cancer-causing pesticides. After 36 days, Chavez was advised to end the fast or risk permanent damage to his health and possibly death. On August 21, 1988, eight thousand farm workers and supporters, including Jesse Jackson, Ethel Kennedy, Tom Hayden, Martin Sheen and Edward James Olmos joined Chavez at the Forty Acres to attend Mass and celebrate the end of the fast. Supporters agreed to take up the fast in three-day periods and continue a "chain of suffering."

The fast was hard on Chavez's health, but it did not elicit a response from the growers. However it did produce a wave of media attention and a series of rallies, grocery-store pickets, and vigils around the country. Within two years, grape consumption was down considerably in major metropolitan cities throughout the US.

By the spring of 1989, Chavez was back on the road, speaking to farm workers, church groups, college students, and consumer groups. He continued to spread a broad message about the struggles of farm workers, pesticide poisoning, public health and the environment, public education, affordable housing, job training and opportunities. Chavez drew large audiences wherever he went, and he commanded the respect of a major labor and civil rights leader.

Even as the union was enjoying steady gains in boycott support and making progress in the fields, it was beset by financial problems stemming from lawsuits filed by growers to contest union elections and seek damages for losses from the union-organized boycotts.

### **CESAR CHAVEZ'S FINAL DAYS**

Chavez traveled to San Luis, Arizona, in April 1993 to testify against a lawsuit filed by the Bruce Church Company, a corporate giant in the lettuce industry. After two days of testimony he was tired but confident, eager to defeat the lawsuit and return to organizing work. On April 22 Chavez spent an evening with UFW board member David Martinez at the San Luis home of Dona Maria Hau, a retired farm worker. Sometime in the early morning hours of April 23, 1993, Cesar died from natural causes. He was 66 years old.

News of Cesar's death spread, as did feelings of shock, sadness, grief, and gratitude for all that Cesar did, all that he fought for, and all that he symbolized. Almost forty thousand people made their way to Delano to pay their respects and to march with Cesar behind the red and black union flags one last time.

Farm workers, political leaders and celebrities reflected on Cesar's passing the words of Pete Velasco, a Filipino immigrant, farm worker, and union leader, perhaps reflect the widest sentiment:

“Cesar was a gift to the farm workers, to all people, and to me. He taught us how to walk in the jungle and not be afraid. He taught us to maintain dignity. The spirit within every one of us has become renewed, just like the spirit of 1965 has come back to life. And that was a beautiful legacy that we received from our brother Cesar Chavez.”

After the funeral procession, Chavez was laid to rest in a simple, private ceremony at La Paz.

Chavez's legacy matches that of any social leader in the U.S. during the twentieth century. Identification and preservation of sites associated with Chavez's life and the history of the labor movement that he led will ensure that this legacy is not forgotten. At the same time, identification and preservation of sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement will recognize the difficulties that farm laborers faced in their efforts to form the attachments to place that most Americans take for granted. Properties such as the Forty Acres near Delano and Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz in the Tehachapi

Mountains have particular importance. Purchased, shaped, and maintained by farm workers, these sites reflect the strength and permanence of their union. They remain sources of pride for Mexican Americans and others who supported the UFW in the 1960s and 1970s and continue to support the union today. For all Americans, these sites are critical locations for understanding U.S. history as it unfolded over the course of the twentieth century.

## **Historic Contexts & Resource Descriptions**

Properties identified as being associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement correspond to eight historic contexts that are defined chronologically (*Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement*). Each property is categorized within each historic context by its associative characteristics (characteristics reflecting its association with one or more historic contexts) rather than its physical characteristics (e.g., style, structural type, size, scale, proportions, design, or architectural details).

In general, each of these properties might include buildings such as houses, social halls, schools, churches, courthouses, service centers, community centers, office buildings, commercial buildings, and civic auditoriums; sites such as labor camps, ranches, parks, plazas, fairgrounds, and athletic fields; and routes related to marches and picket lines.

### **1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952**

These properties reflect and illustrate specific conditions and experiences that shaped Cesar Chavez's early life and thereby laid a foundation for his later careers as a community organizer, labor leader, and advocate for social justice. Most of these properties are located in Arizona and southern California. They include homes where the Chavez family lived, segregated and unsegregated schools that Chavez and his siblings attended, churches that the Chavez family attended, places where Chavez or his family worked, and places where Chavez gathered with friends.



Farm workers in Indio, California demonstrate in support of a ban of five dangerous pesticides that threaten the health of themselves and their children: parathion, methyl bromide, phosdrin, dinoseb, and captan. Shows a man who holds his child and carries a sign that reads: "Abajo con las pesticidas" (Down with pesticides"). Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, c. 1980s.



A demonstration for the United Farm Workers renewed grape boycott. Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, c. 1980s.



Celebrities speak at a press conference in support of Cesar Chavez's 1988 "Fast For Life"; a campaign to end the usage of pesticides and a boycott of grapes, August, 1988. (Left to Right: Actors Lou Diamond Phillips, Charles Haid, Edward James Olmos, Edward Albert, Martin Sheen, Robert Blake, Julie Carmen, and an unidentified women). Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University. Photographer unknown, 1988.

## **2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960**

These properties relate to the historical development of the agricultural industry and agricultural labor force in the American West and the history of the farm labor movement before Cesar Chavez became involved in it. Many of these properties are located in California. Associated properties include ranches, labor camps, union halls, and sites of conflict between farm laborers and growers. The physical integrity of most of these properties is likely to be insufficient for listing in the National Register or National Historic Landmark designation.

## **3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962**

Most of these properties are associated with Cesar Chavez's development as a community organizer, from his first exposure to the Community Service Organization (CSO) in 1952 to his decision to resign as president of the organization ten years later in order to form a labor union for farm laborers. The rest of the properties reflect and illustrate Dolores Huerta's formative experiences and her work with the CSO. All of these properties are located in California, many of them in San Jose, Oakland, Oxnard, Stockton, and Los Angeles. They include homes where the Chavez and Huerta families lived, service centers affiliated with the CSO, churches, social halls, labor camps that the CSO sought to improve, ranches that were struck, office buildings, and march routes, among other properties.

## **4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965**

These properties reflect and illustrate the early efforts of Cesar Chavez, Helen Chavez, the Chavez children and extended family (especially Manuel Chavez), Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla, Julio Hernández, Jim Drake, and others to form the Farm Workers Association (FWA) in Delano and build its membership throughout California's San Joaquin Valley. The properties include homes, public parks

where recruitment events were held, office buildings, the site of the FWA's founding convention in Fresno, and the grower operation and labor camps that became the first targets of FWA strikes.

## **5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike between 1965 and 1970**

These properties reflect and illustrate the most important period in the modern history of the farm labor movement in the American West, a period that began when Filipino farm laborers in Delano voted to go on strike and lasted until growers signed union contracts almost five years later. Most of these properties are in Delano and elsewhere in Kern County, California, but some are located in other parts of the state and in cities that UFW boycotters moved to throughout the West, Midwest, and East. Associated properties include homes (some of which served as boycott headquarters), courthouses and other government buildings, social halls such as the Filipino Community Hall, churches, ranches that were struck, office buildings, parks and fairgrounds, hotels and motels, march routes, and the grounds and buildings of the United Farm Workers' first national headquarters (the Forty Acres).

## **6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975**

These properties are associated with the UFW's continuing development as a union and its battle to organize farm laborers in the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys while fending off efforts by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to do likewise. This battle began in 1970 with setbacks for the UFW, but the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 signaled the union's coming victory. Many associated properties are located in or near Salinas but other properties are in central and southern California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, and Oregon. They include office buildings, courthouses, community centers such as the Santa Rita center in Phoenix, hotels where negotiations were conducted and rallies held, a convention center where the UFW constitutional convention was held, ranches, march routes, and the site of the UFW's national headquarters (Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz).

## **7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984**

These properties relate to the transformation of the UFW into a modern union and the evolution of the farm labor movement as its apparent strength declined. Most of these properties are located in California and Arizona. They include ranches where violent confrontations and union elections took place, schools and other sites of rallies or protests, homes, centers such as El Centro Campesino Cultural in San Juan Bautista, and march routes.

## **8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, between 1984 and 1993**

These properties reflect and illustrate the challenges that Cesar Chavez and the farm labors faced in a new political climate and their responses, beginning with a renewed grapes boycott called to raise awareness of the dangers of pesticides and ending with Chavez's death in 1993. Most of these properties are located in California, though the national scope of Chavez's efforts and the union's activities indicates that other properties will be found throughout the country. Associated properties include homes, ranches (some of them the sites of pesticide poisonings), march routes, sites of rallies, and centers such as the Pesticide Education Center in San Francisco.

Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement									
Property/Site	City/Town (or proximate)	Historic Context							
		1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952.	2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960.	3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962.	4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965.	5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike, 1965 to 1970.	6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975.	7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984.	8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, 1984 to 1993.
<b>San Francisco-Oakland, CA Area</b>									
East Bay Huelga Headquarters	Oakland					✓			
NFWA Office	San Francisco					✓			
San Francisco Labor Temple	San Francisco					✓			
St. Paul's Convent (Boycott House)	San Francisco						✓		
<b>San Jose-San Juan Bautista-Salinas, CA Area</b>									
Monterey County Jail	Salinas						✓		
Mexican American Political Association Office	Salinas						✓		
UFW Legal Offices	Salinas						✓		
Hartnell Community College Athletic Field	Salinas						✓		
San Jerardo Cooperative	Salinas							✓	
Chavez Family Residence (Scharff Avenue)	San Jose	✓		✓					
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Summer Street)	San Jose			✓					
CSO Office (Santa Clara Street)	San Jose			✓					
CSO Office (Jackson Avenue)	San Jose			✓					
McDonnell Hall, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	San Jose			✓					
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Wabash Avenue)	San Jose			✓					
Mexican Heritage Plaza Site	San Jose					✓			

Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement (continued)									
Property/Site	City/Town (or proximate)	Historic Context							
		1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952.	2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960.	3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962.	4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965.	5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike, 1965 to 1970.	6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975.	7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984.	8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, 1984 to 1993.
Evergreen Ranch Site	San Jose			✓					
Center for Employment Training	San Jose						✓	✓	✓
Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School	San Jose						✓	✓	
El Teatro Campesino	San Juan Bautista					✓	✓		
Mission San Juan Bautista	San Juan Bautista						✓		
<b>Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto-Fresno-Caruthers-Visalia-Porterville, CA Area</b>									
Migrant Farm Worker Housing Center	Calistoga					✓			
St. Mary's Church	Stockton			✓					
Graceada Park	Modesto						✓		
Fresno County Jail	Fresno						✓		
El Centro Campesino Cultural	Fresno					✓			
Sikkema Dairy Ranch	Caruthers							✓	
Linnell Farm Labor Center	Visalia					✓			
Woodville Farm Labor Center	Porterville					✓			
<b>Delano, CA Area</b>									
The Forty Acres	Delano					✓	✓	✓	✓
Filipino Community Hall	Delano					✓			
People's Bar and Café	Delano					✓			
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	Delano				✓	✓			
NFWA Office (Albany Street)	Delano				✓	✓			

Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement (continued)									
Property/Site	City/Town (or proximate)	Historic Context							
		1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952.	2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960.	3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962.	4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965.	5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike, 1965 to 1970.	6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975.	7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984.	8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, 1984 to 1993.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Meeting Hall	Delano					✓			
Baptist Church ("Negrito Hall")	Delano					✓			
Stardust Motel	Delano					✓			
Larry Itliong Residence	Delano		✓		✓	✓			
Richard Chavez Residence	Delano				✓	✓			
American Legion Hall	Delano			✓					
Dolores Huerta Residence	Delano				✓	✓			
DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, Sierra Vista Ranch	Delano					✓			
NFWA Strike Headquarters ("Arroyo Camp")	Delano					✓			
Delano High School, Auditorium	Delano					✓			
NFWSC Headquarters	Delano					✓			
Delano Memorial Park	Delano					✓			
NFWA Office (The "Pink House")	Delano					✓	✓		
<b>Bakersfield-Lamont-Arvin-Keene, CA Area</b>									
DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, Di Giorgio Farms	Arvin					✓			
Arvin Farm Labor Center	Bakersfield		✓		✓	✓			
Kern County Superior Court Building	Bakersfield					✓			
Giumarra Vineyards Corporation	Bakersfield					✓			

**Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement (continued)**

Property/Site	City/Town (or proximate)	Historic Context							
		1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952.	2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960.	3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962.	4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965.	5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike, 1965 to 1970.	6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975.	7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984.	8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, 1984 to 1993.
Kern County Fairgrounds	Bakersfield					✓			
Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz ("La Paz")	Keene						✓	✓	✓
UFWOC Field Office	Lamont					✓	✓		
<b>Carpinteria-Ventura-Oxnard, CA Area</b>									
Carpinteria State Beach	Carpinteria			✓					
Buena Vista Labor Camp	Oxnard			✓					
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Wright Road)	Oxnard			✓					
CSO Office (Grant Avenue)	Oxnard			✓					
NFWA Office	Oxnard					✓			
Cesar Chavez Boyhood Residence (Garfield Avenue)	Oxnard	✓							
CSO Office (Hayes Street)	Oxnard			✓					
Farm Labor Placement Service Office	Ventura			✓					
<b>Los Angeles, CA Area</b>									
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Folsom Street)	Los Angeles			✓					
CSO Headquarters (Soto Street)	Los Angeles			✓					
CSO Headquarters (4 <sup>th</sup> Street)	Los Angeles			✓					
UFWOC Field Office	Los Angeles					✓			

Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement (continued)									
Property/Site	City/Town (or proximate)	Historic Context							
		1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952.	2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960.	3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962.	4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965.	5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike, 1965 to 1970.	6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975.	7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984.	8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, 1984 to 1993.
California Migrant Ministry Offices	Los Angeles					✓			
La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora Reina de Los Angeles ("La Placita")	Los Angeles					✓	✓	✓	
Church of the Epiphany	Los Angeles					✓	✓	✓	
Boycott House (Winter Street)	Los Angeles					✓			
Boycott House (1st Street)	Los Angeles					✓			
Boycott House (Pacific Avenue)	Los Angeles					✓			
Boycott House (Harvard Street)	Los Angeles					✓			
Boycott House (Hobart Street)	Los Angeles					✓			
<b>Borrego Springs-Coachella-Coachella Valley-Thermal, CA Area</b>									
Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation, Borrego Springs Ranch	Borrego Springs				✓				
UFWOC Field Office	Coachella					✓	✓		
David Freedman Ranch	Coachella						✓		
Veterans Park	Coachella						✓		
Cesar Chavez Elementary School	Coachella								✓
Coachella Valley High School	Thermal						✓		
UFW Office (North Main Street)	Blythe						✓		
UFW Office (North Broadway)	Blythe							✓	
<b>Calexico-Holtville-Imperial Valley, CA Area</b>									
UFW Field Office ("El Hoyo")	Calexico						✓	✓	
De Anza Hotel	Calexico			✓					

Table 2-1: Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement (continued)									
Property/Site	City/Town (or proximate)	Historic Context							
		1. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's early life and formative experiences between 1927 and 1952.	2. Properties associated with the development of the agricultural industry, agricultural labor, and agricultural labor activism in the American West before 1960.	3. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez's education as a community organizer and the emergence of Dolores Huerta between 1952 and 1962.	4. Properties associated with the organization of the Farm Workers Association between 1962 and 1965.	5. Properties associated with the Delano grape strike, 1965 to 1970.	6. Properties associated with the Salinas strike, the fight against the Teamsters, and agricultural labor laws between 1970 and 1975.	7. Properties associated with the modernization of the United Farm Workers and the broadening of the farm labor movement between 1975 and 1984.	8. Properties associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in a new era, 1984 to 1993.
NFWSC Health Clinic	Calexico						✓	✓	
Mario Saikhon Ranch	Holtville							✓	
<b>San Luis-Yuma, AZ Area</b>									
UFW Field Office	San Luis						✓		
Maria Hau Residence	San Luis								✓
Chavez Family Homestead	Yuma	✓							
Laguna School Building	Yuma	✓							
Chavez General Store	Yuma	✓							
<b>Phoenix-Tolleson, AZ Area</b>									
Santa Rita Center	Phoenix						✓		
Del Webb Towne House	Phoenix						✓		
UFWOC Arizona Headquarters	Tolleson					✓	✓		
<b>Marches</b>									
1959 Downtown Oxnard march route	Oxnard			✓					
1965 Downtown Delano march route	Delano					✓			
1966 Delano to Sacramento march route	n/a					✓			
1969 Coachella to Calexico march route	n/a					✓			
1975 Delano to Modesto march route	n/a						✓		
1975 San Francisco to Modesto march route	n/a						✓		
1975 San Diego to Sacramento to La Paz march route	n/a							✓	

# Resources Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement in the American West

## Geographic Scope

Based on the special resource study legislation, the geographical scope of this special resource study is focused on sites, "...in the State of Arizona, the State of California, and other States that are significant to the life of Cesar E. Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States..."

Because Cesar Chavez spent much of his productive life in the same small towns and rural areas of California where the farm labor movement found most of its members, many associated properties are found in those areas. Yet the history of Chavez's life and the history of the farm labor movement are not simply rural histories nor strictly California histories. The farm workers whom Chavez sought to organize lived in California but also in states such as Arizona, Texas, Oregon, Washington, and Florida, and farm workers in the Midwest drew upon Chavez's inspiration in order to form unions of their own. Likewise, Hispanics throughout the nation found in Chavez a source of inspiration and optimism about their own futures, no matter what their occupation. Indeed, for more than a quarter of a century, Chavez received respect, attention, admiration, and support from individuals in all walks of life, from all parts of the nation.

The structure of the agricultural industry made this a national history as well. The consumption of agricultural products tied sites of production in agricultural valleys in California and elsewhere to urban points of distribution and to urban markets such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., New York, and Boston. The UFW's boycotters, in turn, targeted such points of distribution and urban markets in their efforts to gain support for the farm labor movement from across the nation and thereby pressure growers into recognizing the rights of the union's members.

Still, it should be noted that the vast majority of published scholarship related to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement focuses on events that took place in rural California. Based on the legislation authorizing this special resource study, sites in Arizona are also considered. However, much work

remains to be done to flesh out how the farm labor movement grew in the western United States and beyond.

## Identification of Resources

Research on sites, properties, and march routes associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the American West began in October 2009 in partnership with Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton (COPH). The starting point was a list of 43 sites, properties, and march routes identified in a draft theme study, "Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement in the American West" (2004). Over the course of COPH's work, the list of sites, properties, and march routes was expanded from 43 to 84 (*Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties and March Routes*). The initial expansion resulted primarily from the work of their undergraduate research team, which surveyed a representative swath of the primary sources archived within the online Farm Labor Movement Documentation Project. Students worked with books and essays written during the 1960s and 1970s, oral history interviews conducted during the past four decades, recently declassified FBI surveillance files (which include a wealth of information about relevant locations), back issues of the UFW newspaper (*El Malcriado*) written in Spanish and English, photographs, other published and unpublished primary sources, and published secondary sources.

A smaller team of students subsequently cross-checked addresses and property-specific information in county directories and records databases. The CSUF team also conducted follow-up field research in 2010 and through site visits, informal conversations and preliminary interviews with individuals directly or indirectly associated with the farm labor movement, the list was further expanded. Sites were not generally removed from their list based on this work, but the field research facilitated assessment of sites for significance.

Additional sites were identified through the public scoping process for this special resource study. Given the breadth of properties and resources associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement, additional resources will likely emerge over time. However, given the research conducted for the 2004 draft theme study and this special resource study, it is likely that the most significant associated sites have been identified.

## **Sites and properties that are Commemorative in Nature**

In general, sites and properties that are commemorative in nature have not been included in this study.

Sites and properties included in this study have been analyzed following NPS Management Policies, Section 1.3.1 (Appendix C), which states that “national significance for cultural resources will be evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmarks criteria.” Sites and properties included in this study have been analyzed following the National Historic Landmark (NHL) criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65 as well as the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 60 (Appendix D).

NHL Criterion 2 governs sites and properties that might be considered nationally significant for their association with the life of a person who is nationally significant. NRHP Criterion B governs sites and properties that might be eligible for listing because of their association with a person significant in our past within a local, state, or national historic context. NHL

Criterion 2, however, specifies that the association must be with the person’s productive life. Similarly, NRHP Criterion B specifies that the associated property must illustrate rather than commemorate a person’s important achievements.

Hundreds of schools, parks, streets, libraries, and community centers across the United States have been named after Cesar Chavez; statues and other monuments commemorate his life’s work. Yet with one exception, these sites were named in honor of Chavez after his death in 1993 and thus are not associated with his productive life or important achievements.

The single exception is the Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Coachella, California. Chavez resisted efforts to name schools or other places after him throughout his life, but the community of Coachella convinced him to relent. Chavez attended the renaming ceremony on October 19, 1990, thus elevating his association with the site beyond the fact of commemoration.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>San Francisco-Oakland, CA Area</b>		
East Bay Huelga Headquarters	Oakland	This house served as a strike/boycott support center during the late 1960s.
NFWA Office	San Francisco	The NFWA maintained an office here beginning in 1966.
San Francisco Labor Temple	San Francisco	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)	San Francisco	This building served as a boycott headquarters during the 1970s.
<b>San Jose-San Juan Bautista-Salinas, CA Area</b>		
Monterey County Jail	Salinas	In 1970, the UFWOC shifted its focus to the Salinas Valley, where hundreds of lettuce growers had signed contracts with the Teamsters. Cesar Chavez launched a lettuce boycott, but the grower secured an injunction. When Chavez refused to suspend the boycott in December, the judge sent him to the county jail, making it a key site for rallies, visits from Coretta Scott King and Ethel Kennedy, and national media coverage. The California Supreme Court ordered Chavez's release on December 24, 1970.
Mexican American Political Association Office	Salinas	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.
UFW Legal Offices	Salinas	Offices for UFW legal staff were located here, on the second floor, during the 1970s.
Hartnell Community College Athletic Field	Salinas	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.
San Jerardo Cooperative	Salinas	Cooperative housing community established in the late 1970s by and for members of the farm labor movement
Chavez Family Residence (Scharff Avenue)	San Jose	Cesar and Helen and their children lived at this location during the early 1950s. The lot had two houses; Cesar and his family lived in the front house and Richard Chavez lived in the rear house. The front house was the location of the first meeting between Cesar and Fred Ross in June 1952.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Summer Street)	San Jose	Cesar and Helen and their children lived here in 1954.
CSO Office (Santa Clara Street)	San Jose	Chavez 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.
CSO Office (Jackson Avenue)	San Jose	The CSO continued to thrive in San Jose under Rita Chavez Medina. This property served as the CSO chapter office.
McDonnell Hall, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	San Jose	Our Lady of Guadalupe Church became instrumental in the farm labor movement during the 1950s and 1960s. The church, where Chavez worshipped when he lived in San Jose, supported local migrant farm workers with basic services and helped to galvanize community organizing efforts. The parish hall is where Chavez worked with priest and mentor Father Donald McDonnell during the early 1950s.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Wabash Ave.)	San Jose	Cesar and Helen and their children lived here in the early 1950s.
Mexican Heritage Plaza Site	San Jose	Site of a Safeway grocery store that was among the first to be boycotted by the UFWOC during the late 1960s.
Evergreen Ranch Site	San Jose	Cesar Chavez and family members worked here during the early 1950s and discussed forming a farm workers' union.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes (continued)</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
Center for Employment Training	San Jose	CET was founded in 1967 to provide job training services to farm workers and other low-income residents of Sal Si Puede.
Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School	San Jose	This school was the site of student activism in support of the farm labor movement.
El Teatro Campesino	San Juan Bautista	El Teatro Campesino, founded by Luis Valdez and Agustin Lira in the winter of 1965-66, performed songs and skits for and with farm workers at Friday night meetings and on the picket lines. By 1971, the troupe had settled in San Juan Bautista, broadened its repertoire, and gained national recognition for its groundbreaking work.
Mission San Juan Bautista	San Juan Bautista	Chavez retreated to this small mission town outside of Salinas to recuperate from a fast in August 1970 and held secret negotiations with Salinas growers.
<b>Calistoga-Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto-Fresno-Caruthers-Visalia-Porterville, CA Area</b>		
Migrant Farm Worker Housing Center	Calistoga	Site of farm labor organizing and negotiation of contract with Christian Brothers Winery in 1967.
St. Mary's Church	Stockton	St. Mary's Catholic Church is significant for its association with Dolores Huerta and CSO organizing. When Fred Ross arrived in Stockton to form a new chapter of the CSO in 1955, Thomas McCullough, a priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church, introduced him to Dolores Huerta. Huerta became active at St. Mary's and impressed McCullough with her leadership skills.
Graceada Park	Modesto	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 County Jail	Fresno	When the UFW's contracts with table-grape growers expired in July 1973, the Teamsters moved in and a wave of violence hit the San Joaquin Valley. Law enforcement officials routinely blamed UFW organizers. By August, more than two thousand UFW members and supporters had been sent to the Fresno County Jail, including 76-year-old Catholic activist and writer, Dorothy Day. Supporters gathered at the jail to bring attention to the situation.
El Centro Campesino Cultural	Fresno	The headquarters of El Teatro Campesino were located here between 1969 and 1971.
Sikkema Dairy Ranch	Caruthers	René Lopéz was shot to death on this ranch after he finally succeeded in getting the ALRB to hold an election in September 1983.
Linnell Farm Labor Center	Visalia	The Tulare County Housing Authority's Woodville and Linnell labor camps were among the earliest targets of the Farm Workers Association. 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.
Woodville Farm Labor Center	Porterville	The Tulare County Housing Authority's Woodville and Linnell labor camps were among the earliest targets of the Farm Workers Association. 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.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes (continued)</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Delano, CA Area</b>		
The Forty Acres	Delano	The Forty Acres property was acquired in 1966. Several structures were built by union leaders and volunteers to house the UFW's headquarters and the first of many service centers created to meet farm workers' needs beyond the fields. The Forty Acres housed a gas station and repair shop, a multipurpose hall, a health clinic, and Agbayani Village, a retirement residential facility built for Filipino American farm workers and named after Pablo Agbayani, a Filipino who died of a heart attack during the 1965 Grape Strike. Cesar Chavez conducted his first fast at the Forty Acres in 1968, he moved his office into Reuther Hall in 1969, and he brought growers to Reuther Hall to sign contracts ending the union's five-year table-grape strike in 1970. Chavez conducted his final fast at the Forty Acres in 1988. As a property purchased, built, and used by farm workers, the Forty Acres embodies the farm labor movement itself. As Philip Vera Cruz once observed, "when you say 'Forty Acres,' there are people all over the world who know that you are talking about the United Farm Workers, Cesar Chavez, the farm workers, the grape pickers." Forty Acres was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008. It is owned by the National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc. and continues to function as a UFW field office.
Filipino Community Hall	Delano	On September 8, 1965, Filipino American farm workers led by Larry Itliong and affiliated with the AFL-CIO's AWOC gathered in this building and voted to go on strike against Delano table-grape growers. When members of the NFWA voted to join their strike eight days later, Itliong and other AWOC members such as Ben Gines, and Pete Manuel made the Filipino Community Hall available as a joint strike headquarters. The hall became the site of daily meals and regular Friday night meetings featuring speeches, songs, and performances by El Teatro Campesino. The hall hosted important visits by United Auto Workers' President Walter Reuther, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and other influential supporters, and became a symbol of the farm labor movement's multi-racial unity during the 1960s. The concrete block and stucco structure, built in 1949 by volunteers from the Filipino American community, now houses the Delano Adult Day Health Care Center and hosts social and cultural events.
People's Bar and Café	Delano	During the 1960s and 1970s, People's Bar and Café served as the central gathering place in Delano for union volunteers—a diverse group that included civil rights activists, college students, and others. Cesar Chavez often frequented the bar to play pool and connect with volunteers. As early as 1966, however, People's emerged as a "free speech zone," where volunteers felt free to debate any number of issues, including Chavez's own strategies and tactics.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	Delano	Cesar, Helen, and their eight children moved to Delano in 1962 and settled into a two-bedroom house. The house served as the first headquarters of the FWA, but the house's significance also derives from its connection to the personal sacrifices that labor leaders and their families made as they created what would become the UFW.
NFWA Office (Albany Street)	Delano	The FWA held its founding convention in September 1962. By the beginning of 1963, the FWA had a constitution, a credit union, and a strong enough membership base to rent a building in Delano and move its offices out of Cesar and Helen Chavez's home. For the next six years, this building would serve as the headquarters of the FWA and its successor organizations.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Meeting Hall	Delano	Members of the AWOC voted to go on strike against Delano table-grape growers on September 8, 1965. Eight days later, more than one thousand members of the FWA gathered at the meeting hall of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, where they voted overwhelmingly to join the strike.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes (continued)</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
Baptist Church ("Negrito Hall")	Delano	Soon after voting to go on strike against more than thirty Delano table-grape growers in September 1965, the newly renamed NFWA rented this small church building and converted it into a strike headquarters. Simple partitions created offices and work space. Union members also crowded into this hall for regular Friday night membership meetings (which later would move to the Filipino Community Hall)
Stardust Motel	Delano	The Stardust Motel was the preferred place to stay for political leaders, labor leaders, religious leaders, lawyers, and journalists who came to Delano to observe or participate in the table-grape strike. The motel was the site of pivotal negotiations between Cesar Chavez and Al Green, the director of the AWOC, at the beginning of the strike in 1965 and between Chavez (and UFWOC general counsel, Jerry Cohen) and grower John Giumarra (and his son) at the end of the strike in 1970.
Larry Itliong Residence	Delano	Itliong was a long-time labor leader and resident of Delano before leading the AWOC into launching the Delano strike in September 1965.
Richard Chavez Residence	Delano	Built by Richard Chavez and used as collateral for the loan with which the NFWA credit union began.
American Legion Hall	Delano	The NFWA used this hall for its annual membership meetings prior to 1965.
Dolores Huerta Residence	Delano	Huerta moved her family to Delano in the mid-1960s, rented this house, and opened its doors to other farm workers, volunteers, and families.
DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, Sierra Vista Ranch	Delano	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. Farm workers at the ranch elected the new UFWOC as their union representative in August 1966.
NFWA Strike Headquarters ("Arroyo Camp")	Delano	The NFWA used this property, a former labor camp, as its strike headquarters in 1965. Meals were served at a strike kitchen, a Quonset hut was used to store and dispense donated food and clothing, two trailers served as a medical clinic, and a makeshift gasoline station provided fuel for vehicles used during the strike.
Delano High School, Auditorium	Delano	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.
NFWSC Headquarters	Delano	This building, located next to the Pink House, served as the first headquarters of the National Farm Workers Service Center, founded by LeRoy Chatfield in 1967 to provide services to union members.
Delano Memorial Park	Delano	Chavez broke his famous first fast here on March 11, 1968, with Robert F. Kennedy at his side.
NFWA Office (The "Pink House")	Delano	The union rented this house in order to expand its office space. Its offices remained here until Reuther Hall at the Forty Acres opened in 1969. The Huelga School opened here in 1970.
<b>Bakersfield-Lamont-Arvin-Keene, CA Area</b>		
DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, Di Giorgio Farms	Arvin	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. Farm workers at the ranch elected the new UFWOC as their union representative in November 1966.
Arvin Farm Labor Center	Bakersfield	A New Deal agency opened this migrant labor camp in 1936. John Steinbeck's visit to the camp informed <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> , and Fred Ross later served as camp manager. The camp remained in use into the 1960s. In the summer of 1965, around two hundred members of the AWOC, most of whom were table-grape workers and residents of this camp, went on strike for higher wages.

**Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties & March Routes (continued)**

Property/Site	City (or proximate)	Description
Kern County Superior Court Building	Bakersfield	Cesar Chavez, who had begun his first public fast on February 14, 1968, was called to the Kern County Courthouse to respond to a contempt of court charge on February 28. When he arrived, more than 3,000 farm workers and supporters were gathered outside and inside the building. Growers' attorneys argued that the farm workers had to be evicted from the courthouse, but the judge disagreed. Jerry Cohen would later say that this was an important turning point—the first time the union won anything in this courthouse.
Giumarra Vineyards Corporation	Bakersfield	The Giumarra Company was the chief opponent of the UFWOC during the Delano strike.
Kern County Fairgrounds	Bakersfield	Site of a massive rally and strike vote against the Giumarra Company on August 3, 1967.
Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz ("La Paz")	Keene	Between 1970 and 1984, the farm labor movement transitioned into a modern labor union, the UFW. This union secured unprecedented gains during these years which were closely associated with La Paz. A union supporter purchased the property at La Paz in 1971, and leased it to the NFWSC. With 187 acres of land, residential buildings, administrative spaces and maintenance shops, the property supported not only the UFW headquarters and Cesar Chavez's residence, but also the thousands of union members who came to La Paz to help devise organizing strategies, to receive training, and to strengthen their sense of solidarity. For Chavez himself, La Paz became a place where he could retreat, recharge, and envision new directions for the UFW. Upon his death in 1993, Chavez was buried at La Paz. Owned by the National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc., Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz is used as a visitors center and retreat facility (Villa La Paz Conference Center).
UFWOC Field Office	Lamont	The UFWOC maintained a field office here in the 1960s and early 1970s.
<b>Carpinteria-Ventura-Oxnard, CA Area</b>		
Carpinteria State Beach	Carpinteria	Chavez and his family vacationed here before Chavez 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.
Buena Vista Labor Camp	Oxnard	One of the largest bracero labor camps in the country, with housing for 28,000 workers. Many of these workers sought assistance from Chavez in late-1950s.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Wright Road)	Oxnard	The Chavez family rented this house during the late 1950s.
CSO Office (Grant Avenue)	Oxnard	Chavez 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.
NFWA Office	Oxnard	The NFWA opened this office in 1966.
Cesar Chavez Boyhood Residence (Garfield Avenue)	Oxnard	This site served as the Chavez family residence during the walnut harvest in 1938, 1939, and 1940. The residence was an old shed.
CSO Office (Hayes Street)	Oxnard	This property served as a CSO office during the 1960s and 1970s.
Farm Labor Placement Service Office	Ventura	Chavez led unemployed farm workers from Oxnard to this office for forty days in a row in 1958 in order to document the abuses of the Bracero Program.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes (continued)</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Los Angeles, CA Area</b>		
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence (Folsom Street)	Los Angeles	Cesar, Helen, and their eight young children lived in a house in Boyle Heights for most of Chavez's tenure as executive director of the CSO, 1959 to 1962.
CSO Headquarters (Soto Street)	Los Angeles	Chavez occupied the main offices as executive director of the CSO between 1959 and 1962.
CSO Headquarters (4 <sup>th</sup> Street)	Los Angeles	Chavez occupied the main offices as executive director of the CSO between 1959 and 1962.
UFWOC Field Office	Los Angeles	The UFWOC maintained a field office here in the late 1960s.
California Migrant Ministry Offices	Los Angeles	Rev. Chris Hartmire of the California Migrant Ministry maintained offices here.
La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles ("La Placita") Church	Los Angeles	Chavez attended mass and did organizing at this location.
Church of the Epiphany	Los Angeles	Chavez attended mass and did organizing at this location.
Boycott House (Winter Street)	Los Angeles	This boycott headquarters was run by Bill Chandler during the late 1960s.
Boycott House (1 <sup>st</sup> Street)	Los Angeles	This location served as UFWOC offices in the late 1960s.
Boycott House (Pacific Avenue)	Los Angeles	This location served as boycott headquarters during the late 1960s.
Boycott House (Harvard Street)	Los Angeles	This location served as boycott headquarters during the late 1960s.
Boycott House (Hobart Street)	Los Angeles	This location served as boycott headquarters during the late 1960s.
<b>Borrego Springs-Coachella-Coachella Valley-Thermal-Blythe, CA Area</b>		
DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, Borrego Springs Ranch	Borrego Springs	Target of NFWA and site of Chavez arrest in 1966.
UFWOC Field Office	Coachella	The UFWOC maintained a field office at this location in the late 1960s and 1970s.
David Freedman Ranch	Coachella	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.
Veterans Park	Coachella	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.
Cesar Chavez Elementary School	Coachella	The first public building in the state of California named for Chavez. Dedicated on October 19, 1990.
Coachella Valley High School	Thermal	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.
UFW Office (North Main Street)	Blythe	Site of a UFW Office from 1970 to 1973.
UFW Office (North Broadway)	Blythe	Site of a UFW Office from 1973 to 1983.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes (continued)</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Calexico-Holtville-Imperial Valley, CA Area</b>		
UFW Field Office (“El Hoyo”)	Calexico	Passage of California’s Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 allowed the UFW to expand its presence in the Imperial Valley. The conversion of this former shape-up center into a UFW field office seemed to signal a new future for lettuce workers in the region. The fatal shooting of Rufino Contreras during the lettuce strike of 1979, however, marked a new turning point. Thousands gathered at El Hoyo to mourn Contreras’s death, but the UFW withdrew from the fields shortly thereafter.
De Anza Hotel	Calexico	Site of the CSO annual convention in 1962. Chavez sought CSO support for organizing farm workers at this convention; when the membership refused, he tendered his resignation as executive director.
NFWSC Health Clinic	Calexico	An important service provided for UFW members. Chavez envisioned the provision of health clinics and other service centers throughout California and beyond.
Mario Saikhon Ranch	Holtville	Site of the fatal shooting of 28-year-old union member Rufino Contreras on February 10, 1979.
<b>San Luis-Yuma, AZ Area</b>		
UFW Field Office	San Luis	As Arizona labor organizer Gustavo Gutiérrez expanded the UFW presence in Arizona during the late 1960s, Manuel Chavez arrived to direct the union’s campaigns. The UFW opened a San Luis field office during the early 1970s and began leading melon strikes every summer. These efforts were plagued by internal divisions over the treatment of undocumented workers and the use of violence, leading the UFW to suspend its activity in the state and prompting Gutiérrez and Lupe Sánchez, in turn, to form the Arizona Farm Workers Union.
Maria Hau Residence	San Luis	Chavez was staying at this home in April 1993 when he died in his sleep at the age of 66.
Chavez Family Homestead	Yuma	Cesar Chavez was born in 1927, and he lived in the adobe farmhouse on his grandparents’ homestead in the Gila River Valley from 1932 until the family lost the property and moved to California in 1939. As a child living on this homestead, Chavez learned the value of hard work from his father, the principles of nonviolence from his mother, and the Catholic faith from his grandmother.
Laguna School Building	Yuma	Cesar Chavez recalled his childhood years in the Gila River Valley with fondness, but his childhood was not idyllic. At the Laguna School, Chavez discovered that his use of Spanish, clothing, and darker skin prompted other children and many adults to treat him and other Mexican American children as inferior.
Chavez General Store	Yuma	This property included a grocery store, an auto repair shop, and a pool hall located about one mile from the Chavez homestead. Chavez was born here on March 31, 1927.
<b>Phoenix-Tolleson, AZ Area</b>		
Santa Rita Center	Phoenix	Cesar Chavez undertook a 24-day fast in May 1972 to protest an Arizona law that limited farm workers’ rights to conduct strikes and boycotts and to publicize a campaign to recall the governor of Arizona. Chavez conducted 19 days of this fast at the Santa Rita Center, a building associated with Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the south Phoenix barrio known as El Campito. Thousands of Arizona farm workers, and influential supporters such as Coretta Scott King, came to the Santa Rita Center to participate in rallies, celebrate nightly Masses, give voice to the movement’s newly adopted slogan “Si Se Puede!” and pledge their support for La Causa. The recall campaign was thwarted, but these weeks marked a watershed moment for Arizona politics, for Mexican American political activity, and for the farm labor movement in the American West. Chicanos Por La Causa purchased the structure in 2004 with the intent to preserve the structure and develop a community cultural center. The site was listed on the Phoenix Historic Property Register in 2007.

<b>Table 2-2: Descriptions of Associated Properties &amp; March Routes (continued)</b>		
<b>Property/Site</b>	<b>City (or proximate)</b>	<b>Description</b>
Del Webb Towne House	Phoenix	Site of June 4, 1972, Mass and rally during which Chavez broke his 24-day fast.
UFWOC Arizona Headquarters	Tolleson	Gustavo Gutiérrez established UFWOC's Arizona headquarters in this house in Tolleson. The house served as UFWOC headquarters for Arizona from 1967 to 1973.
1959 Downtown Oxnard march route	Oxnard	In the spring of 1959, Chavez 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 farm workers carried a banner of the Virgin de Guadalupe, gave Chavez a sense of how powerful marches could be for the farm labor movement.
1965 Downtown Delano march route	Delano	On December 16, 1965, UAW President Walter Reuther joined Chavez, Larry Itliong, and hundreds of farm workers 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 farm workers which was recorded and reported by members of the national press.
1966 Delano to Sacramento march route	n/a	The March to Sacramento in 1966 was a milestone event in the history of the farm labor movement. The AWOOC and the NFWA had launched their table-grape strike against the Delano-area growers in September 1965. By late winter, union leaders were seeking ways to revitalize the strike. They decided to conduct a 300-mile protest march from Delano to Sacramento, and Chavez devised a theme ("Pilgrimage, Penitence, and Revolution") and a time-frame that would coincide with the Lenten season. More than one hundred men and women set out from Delano on March 17, 1966, and thousands of farm workers and their families joined in for short stretches along the way. The march route passed through forty-two cities and towns of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as vast stretches of the agricultural landscape. By the time the marchers entered Sacramento on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, the farm labor movement had secured a contract and new waves of support from across the country.
1969 Coachella to Calexico march route	n/a	The UFWOC undertook this nine-day march in July 1969 to solicit support for from Mexican immigrants.
1975 Delano to Modesto march route	n/a	In February 1975, simultaneous marches to the Gallo Company's headquarters in Modesto began in San Francisco and Delano; these marches led directly to the passage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act.
1975 San Francisco to Modesto march route	n/a	In February 1975, simultaneous marches to the Gallo Company's headquarters in Modesto began in San Francisco and Delano; these marches led directly to the passage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act.
1975 San Diego to Sacramento to La Paz march route	n/a	In July and August 1975, Chavez and other union members undertook a "1,000-mile march" lasting 59 days to organize farm workers and raise awareness of the new Agricultural Labor Relations Act.