

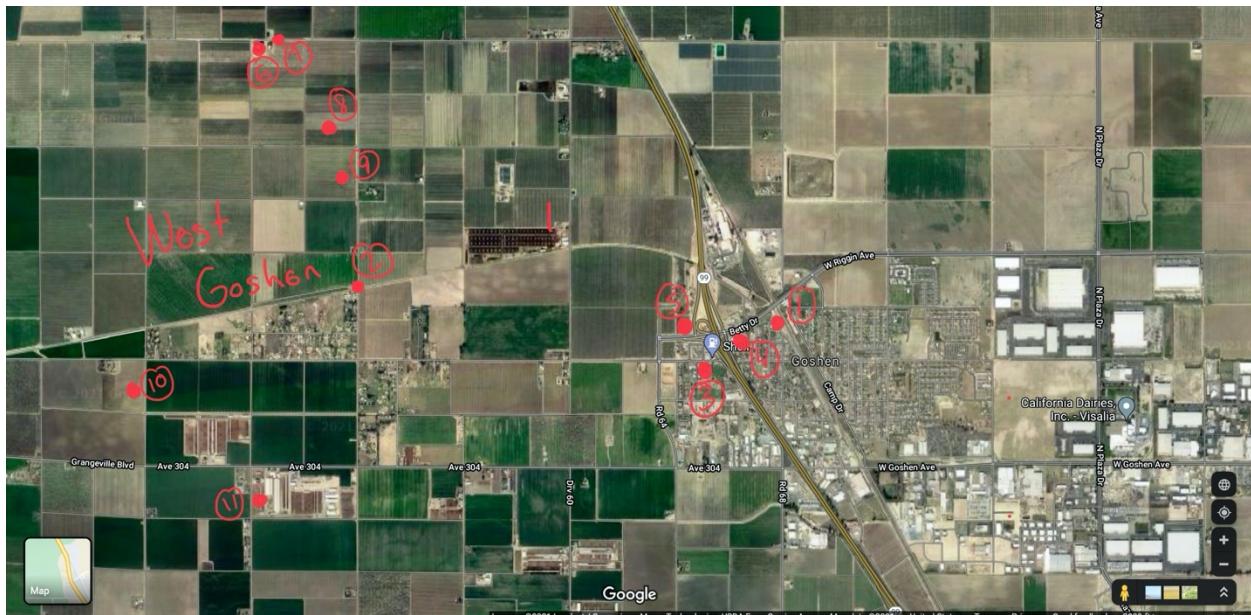
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Geography 167AC

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Goshen/West Goshen/Visalia, California



Reference Map: The circled numerical values indicate the location of each picture respectively. For example, the circled number 1 refers to Image 1, the circled number 2 refers to Image 2, and so on.



Image 1: This train track route had a major role in the origination of Goshen, California, during the 20th century.

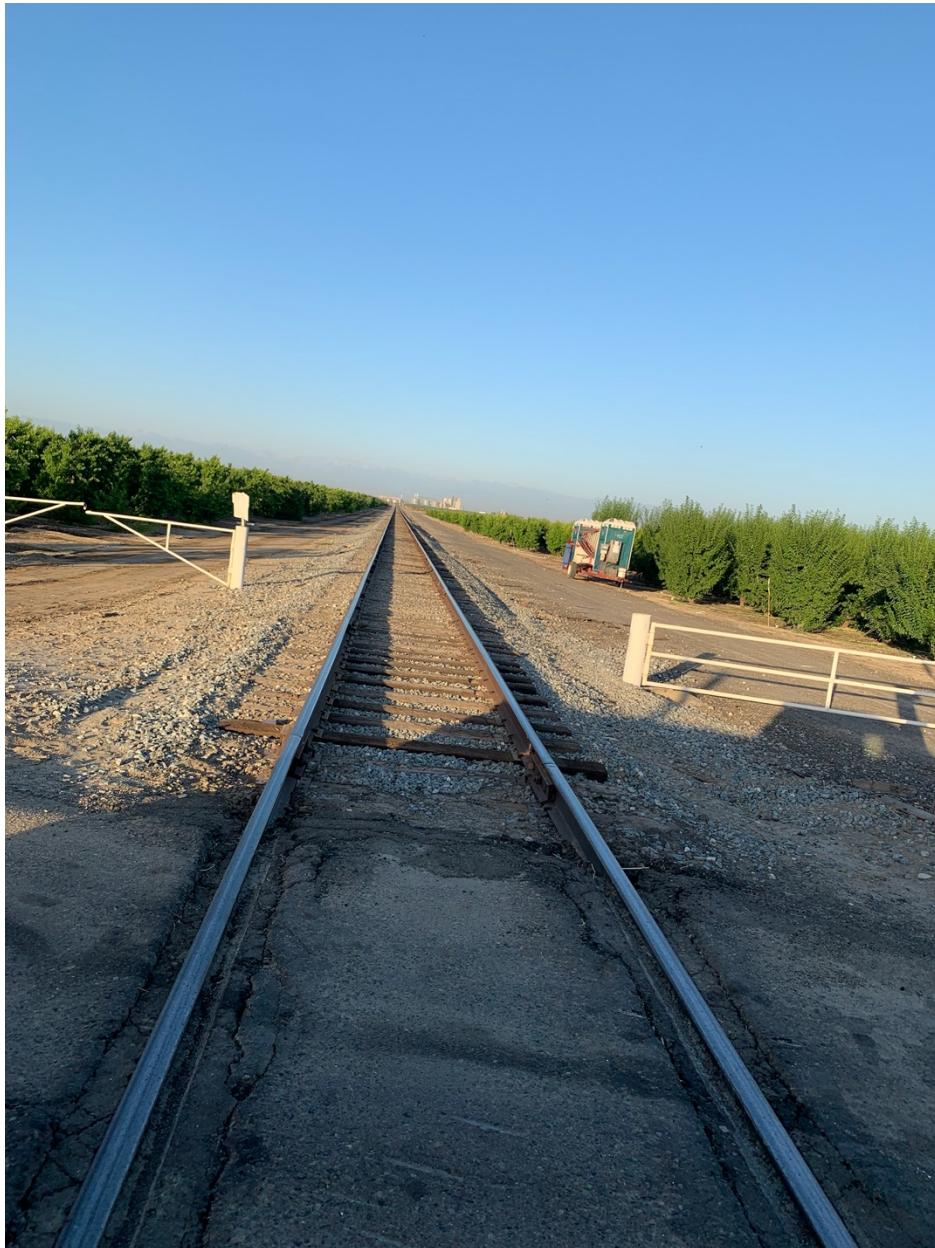


Image 2: An extension of the train track in Image 1 from a different location coming from the West Coast leading up to Goshen.



Image 3: Goshen Elementary (this is the elementary school that I attended from 3rd-6th grade,) is the only public school in town. In order to attend high school, one must commute to Visalia, California.



Image 4: Truck stop located along highway 99 has promoted industrialization and the construction of multiple gas stations.



Image 5: Such area used to be an almond orchard, now it is being utilized to construct a 5th gas station in Goshen. Such area is also attracting construction of homes.



Image 6: An outdoor fruit packaging house where many labor workers (including myself and mom) come during the appropriate season (predominantly during the summer) not only from Goshen but from many distant cities such as Huron, California, which is about 42 miles west of Goshen.



Image 7: A loaded truck with natural goods from the company Family Farms which owns a large portion of West Goshen territory.



Image 8: This is inside a humid, hot peach orchard where many labor workers (including myself and mom), not only from Goshen, trim, maintain, and harvest peaches during the appropriate seasons. Peach orchards are very common in this part of West Goshen.



Image 9: This is inside a grape orchard, like image 8, labor workers from all parts of the Central Valley come to these orchards to, trim, maintain, and harvest grapes. Fact: many jobs including harvesting the grapes are not paid by the hour, but by the bucket.



Imagine 11: In conjunction to agriculture, the dairy industry is also dominate industry, where (again) many labor workers come and maintain cattle, maintain facilities, and harvest milk.

Before discussing the origination of Goshen, California, and its fluidity of demographics it is important to discuss the history and identify the people inhabiting such area before anything. Let's go back to pre-European colonization and of course before the "birth" of the United States of America. The area, now known as Tulare County, was primarily controlled by the true American natives of the northwestern portion of the Americas, which include the tribal groups Foothill Yokuts, Monache, Tabtulabal, and Southern Valley Yokuts based on the California Courts the Judicial Branch of California¹. During the European colonization era and the United States' push towards westward expansion, there is an uprise of newly self-identified Mexicans within the Tulare County area. During this time, we see the United States' Manifest Destiny, providing reasoning in an indirect fashion for US colonization of the North American western territory. As Tomas Almaguer puts it in his work, "Racial Fault Lines", states that "'Manifest Destiny', European Americans migrating into the new American South-West could have been expected to despise completely the Mexican population they encountered in California" exemplifying that the origin of Tulare County was around prejudice and suppression of minority groups, in this case Mexicans and in general Native Americans⁷.

Once again, before scoping into Goshen and West Goshen California, lets scope out to Visalia, California, which is about 13 miles away from the desired location. Visalia was originated in 1853 which is before the establishment of Goshen in 1872 (give or take). The growth of Visalia and its surrounding area "can be attributed in part to the gold rush along the Kern River" indicating that the incoming migrants were predominantly white European-Americans². But during this time, western expansion was nothing new in the North American continent. White European Americans settlers or migrants followed a false narrative created by Manifest Destiny, which Manifest Destiny in itself was another configuration of European

colonization back when “the first settler arrived at Jamestown and Plymouth. In the process they appropriated a great continent, killing or displacing nearly all of its native inhabitants” which ironically the same thing occurred when European Americans first arrived in the area that is now called Visalia, California⁸.

Finally, let’s now get to the desired location, my hometown, Goshen, California. It may be evident based on images 1 and 2, but the establishment of Goshen was surrounded by the railroad system along the Central Valley in 1872. Such railroad system “increased the likelihood of economic success for a community, so towns established on the route clearly had an advantage” and in this case such towns included Goshen³. The train system allowed for the transportation of goods in and out of Goshen and Visalia, attracting settlers and soon to be farm workers/farmland owners. In addition to the transportation of goods, it is more than likely that Goshen became a more accessible location for migrants at the time providing an increase to the Goshen community in numbers. The exact demographic numbers are not included, but based on the historical context during this time (Manifest Destiny, Gold Rush, prejudice view on Mexican and Native Americans), it can be assumed that the population of Goshen was dominantly white European Americans.

Fast forwarding to the current Goshen and West Goshen the demographics of the area take a complete U-turn, if such assumptions above are correct. Based on the Census of 2019, the race and ethnicity demographics for Goshen include 13% White, 0% Black, 1% Native, 5% Asian, 1% Islander, 1% Other, 1% Two+, and 76% Hispanic⁶. For West Goshen, the 2019 Census data states 27% white and 73% Hispanic with the rest of the other groups at 0%⁵. It is evident that current Goshen and West Goshen are now predominantly a Hispanic community. The data provided by the Census partially explains the large presence of the agricultural

community in West Goshen and Goshen. Another partial explanation for such community is provided in the “Reference Map” on page 1. Based on the geographical location of Goshen, we can see that it is mainly surrounded by agriculture, attracting more Hispanic migrants in search for jobs in agricultural and in dairy. A more specific example is the outdoor fruit packaging house in West Goshen, owned by Family Farms. Such packing house is functional on a seasonal basis. Many labor and migrant workers work here during the summer, but for many their residential homes are not limited to Goshen. Some commute from Huron, California, which is about 42 miles west of Goshen. Some move to Goshen for the summer from Tijuana, Guadalajara, and even from Zapopan, Mexico. A paper from UC Davis stated that “A national survey of farm workers in the early 1990s found that fewer than 10 percent of the farm workers followed the crops”¹¹. Could this indicate an increase in the number of migrants who are following seasonal jobs throughout the year based on the circumstances in West Goshen? Probably not, but it’s interesting to see that there are migrant works who follow agricultural jobs based on season.

To finalize, lets now look at a current example of fluid change occurring in Goshen, surrounding the Truck Stop along highway 99. The Sun-Gazette Newspaper reports that a new “Chevron ‘superstation’ is under construction” and that “400 homes” are planned to be built⁴. This “renovation” of the small town of Goshen is primary due to a truck stop and its economical potential. The reality is that leaders are placing these “renovations” not in the best interest and in thought of the Goshen community, but of the possible economical gain. As Roberto D. Hernandez placed it in his work, “analysis that pays more attention to global capital flows as Baverstock et al. reminds us when they write that cities matter “because of what flows through them, rather than what they statistically contain” which reiterates my statement on city officials

making such actions without the interest of the Goshen/agriculture community, but instead on capital flow. To conclude in an unorthodox manner, “los que apenitas pudieron regresar, los que tuvieron un poco mas de suerte, los eternos indocumentados, los hacelotodo, los vendelotodo, los cometodo...mis compatriotas, mis hermanos” has a close connection to migrant agricultural workers¹⁰. Migrant workers are here in this country to work, to better their lives and better the future lives of their children. My family are migrant workers, I myself is a migrant worker, and these are my compatriotas and hermanos.



Image 10: Simply demonstrating the beauty of West Goshen

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