



Upcoming events:

MARCH 30 - Easter Egg Hunt, 10am (Historical Village)

MAY 4 - Mother's Day Event, registration required, 11am (Thern Farm)

MAY 18 - Plant Sale & Pancake Breakfast, 8am - 11am, (Historical Village)

JUNE 1- Open House, 1pm - 4pm, (Historical Village)

JUNE 8 - Rhubarb Fest, 9am - 2pm (Thern Farm)

JUNE 15 - Open House, 1pm - 4pm (Historical Village)

JUNE 21 - Friday Market, 3pm - 6pm (Thern Farm)

JUNE 21-23 Civil War Reenactment (Historical Village)

JUNE 29 - Open House, 1pm - 4pm (Historical Village)

JULY 12 - Friday Market, 3pm - 6pm (Thern Farm)

Visit our website for more info!

January is a quiet time for the New London Heritage Historical Society. Both sites - the Historical Village and Thern Farm - use this downtime for planning the upcoming year because soon, our events start back up again.

We have a lot of great things planned for this year and a few new events as well. Make sure you follow us on Facebook or regularly check out our website for updates. At Thern Farm we've already ordered and received our seeds for planting this spring. Dreaming of warmer weather!

We are always looking for more help so if you are interested in volunteering your time or talents, please let us know!

Megan Koehler
NLHHS - Thern Farm & Historical Village



Reindeer at Christmas on the Farm

Thern Farm Receives Designation on National Register of Historic Places

The New London Heritage Historical Society is thrilled to announce we have received an official letter from the Wisconsin Historical Society that as of January 11, 2024, Thern Farm has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places! This is such an amazing honor and is in addition to Thern Farm being placed on the State Register of Historic Places last year. It was a dream of Thern Farm's previous owner, Sandra 'Thern' Fuller, to have the farm placed on the register and we are happy to have realized that dream in her memory.

We worked closely with Legacy Architecture out of Sheboygan to compile the nomination. This was a process spanning over a year to complete. We hope to celebrate this accomplishment at Thern Farm's Annual Rhubarb Fest on Jun 8, 2024. We hope you can join us!

NATIONAL OR STATE REGISTERS RECORD

425 E Fairview Dr

National or State Register of Historic Places



NAMES

Historic Name: **Thern Farmstead**

Reference Number: **100009774**

PROPERTY LOCATION

Location (Address): **425 E Fairview Dr**

County: **Outagamie**

City/Village: **New London**

Township:

SUMMARY

Thern Farmstead

425 East Fairview Drive, New London, Outagamie County

The Thern Farmstead is located at 425 E. Fairview Drive on the outskirts of the small city of New London. The collection of agricultural buildings is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a fine example of an early twentieth century Wisconsin farmstead in Outagamie County. The farm has a Gabled Ell style house and an assortment of agricultural wood frame outbuildings with a high level of integrity.

The farm was previously the site of the New London City Fair in the late nineteenth century and several of the farm buildings date to the period. As the popularity of the fair waned, the land was sold to George Thern and his family, who established a family farm. The centennial farm was relatively small and specialized in dairy and honey production through most of the twentieth century. It is one of the few remaining farmsteads with integrity to its period of construction in Outagamie County.

History in Action at the Historical Village

The NLHHS is excited to bring back the Civil War Reenactment group to the Historical Village. The reenactment will take place June 22-23 with a full schedule of events including demonstrations showing military and civilian life. Take a step back into this important part of American history. In addition to the demonstrations, concessions will be available, and the historic buildings will be open to tour. Make sure to watch the website and Facebook for upcoming details and make plans to come out for this historic weekend of events.

CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

JUNE 22 & 23, 2024

-Rain or Shine-
10am - 4pm

AT THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE
900 MONTGOMERY STREET, NEW LONDON

SCHEDULED DEMOS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY:

10:30 AM INFANTRY DRILL
12:00 PM ARTILLERY
1:30 PM CAVALRY
2:00 PM SKIRMISH



Please bring ear protection!

Demonstrations showing military and civilian life will take place all day on the grounds. Take a step back into this important part of American history. LOTS TO SEE!

Skiing In New London by Sylvia Stern, Secretary, New London Historical Society

Did you know New London was once considered a real skiing mecca in the 1930s? It all started with a short notice in the New London Press Republican saying that Henry and Allen Jensen of Scandinavia, Wisconsin had leased the north slope of Mosquito Hill. They announced a ski tournament would be held on January 10, 1935. This was depression time when money was scarce, but the people of New London saw this as a great opportunity for the town. On that day twenty-seven jumpers came, and 1,500 fans showed up to see the jumpers ride 87 feet through the air from only a few snow-covered wooden planks that made the take off for the jump.

There was high spectator interest in New London's first ski meet and the local Lions Club gave support and manpower and announced another would be held on March 3, 1935, with a 30-foot scaffold. They planned to park at least 1,000 cars. Andrew Olsen, a national ski jumping champion for 25 years would be the big star of the day. The VFW would have a banquet later and the charge would be \$.50. On March 3, 1935, 2,000 people paid \$.55 to see Ingvar Armeson of Wisconsin Rapids set the hill record of 103 feet. Hopes were high that New London's ski hill would be the finest in the state. Sadly, Henry Jensen of Scandinavia took a terrible fall and broke his back and died 6 days later at the age of 28.

Big plans and hopes in a depression time also depended on the weather. The second annual Ski meet was to be held on February 23, 1936. It was a year of tremendous blizzards and subzero temps. But 3500 people turned out for the event to see 60 jumpers. It took two hours to park the cars that made a steady stream of traffic through the town.

They hoped the State Championship was to be held on March 14th, 1937, but no snow and mild temps cancelled the event. Later that year plans were made to raise the tower to 94 feet. If an event couldn't be held the host club was out of luck and had to wait until the next year to regain their losses.

January 30, 1938, was to be the largest sports event ever held in New London, but a large amount of snow and low temperatures almost closed the day. 2,000 spectators paid \$.50 and most stayed in their cars. Photographers had a field day taking pictures of all the spills because of the wind. There were some amazing jumps and even a twin jump holding hands. Another source stated that the US Ski Jumping Championships were held there in the 1940s.

In the 1950's downhill skiing became more popular, and more people of all ages could participate. The ski hill club was known as Mo-Ski-Tow Hill and for many years has been considered a lost ski area. It was located in Mosquito Hill and later the View Ridge area. Volunteers had to remove fences, rocks, and trim trees. They installed three tows in 1956 and had a beginner, intermediate and expert hill. They were one of the first ski areas in Wisconsin to provide lights for night skiing.

Continued

Skiing in New London Continued

They had a shelter that offered warm and cold food and a warming area. There was free instruction for beginners and a Red Cross trained ski patrol. It cost \$1.50 for adults and \$.50 for kids to ski. People from beyond the area came to ski and the town had big hopes for its future but in the 1960's other ski areas operated with chair lifts or T-bars and people lost interest in tows. The hill did not have snow making equipment and they were not gaining new members and in 1974 it was sold to Outagamie County for a ridiculous low price of \$8,000. At this time Outagamie County began to put money into the Tri-County Ice Arena. There were hopes that the ski area would be run again.

This information was taken from articles written by George Kubisiak and Greg Albrecht and collected in the history binders at the depot in the Historical Village.



The New London Heritage Historical Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations to the Historical Society are used for maintenance, education, and preservation programs and are 100% tax deductible.

2024 NLHHS OFFICERS:

Charmaine Gerndt, *President*
Kathy Braun, *Vice-President*
Sylvia Stern, *Secretary*
Betty Neuzil, *Treasurer*

Historical Village

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Thern Farm

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Follow NLHHS Historical Village & Thern Farm on Facebook.

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