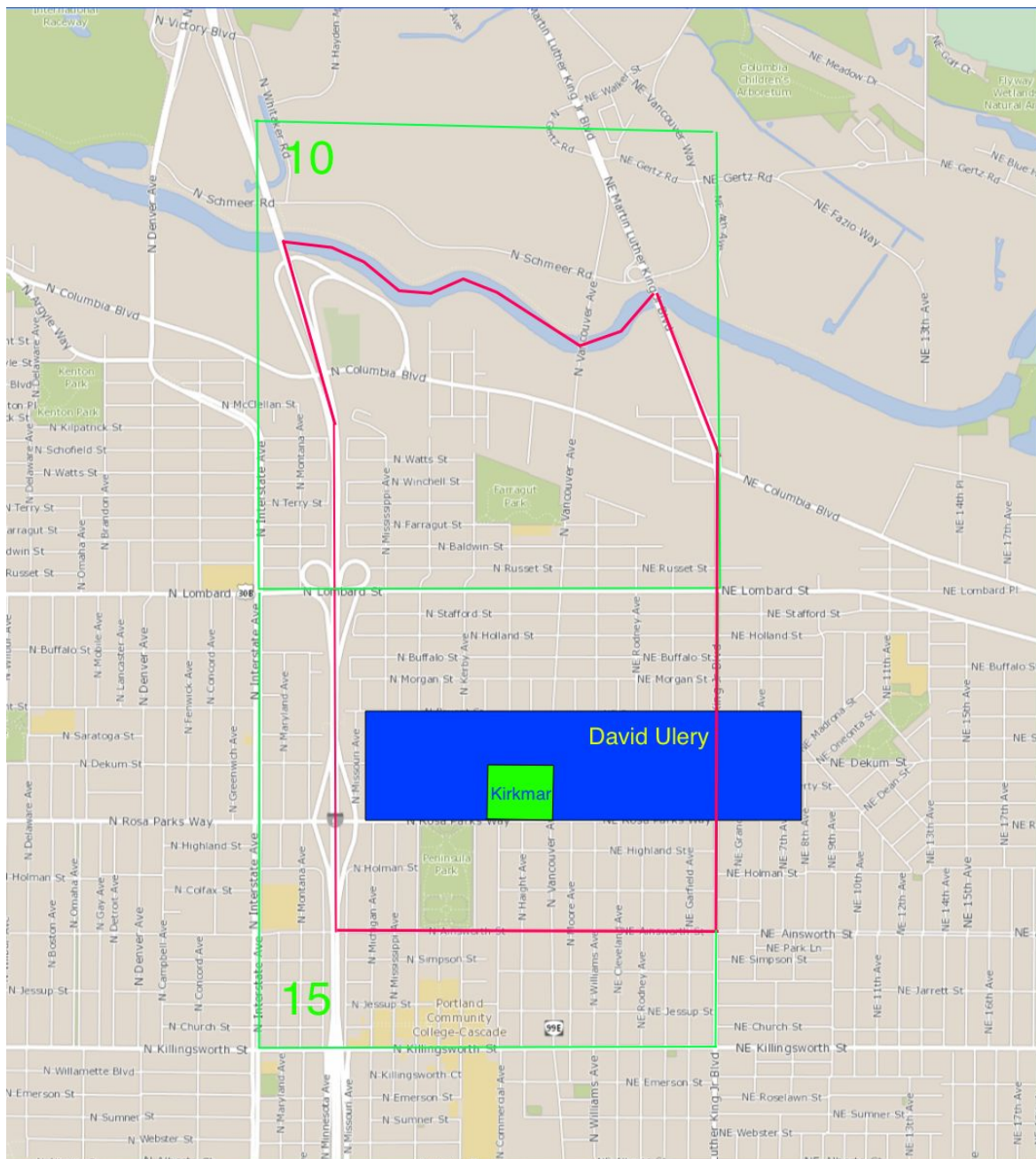


The author of this article lives and works on unceded territory of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River.

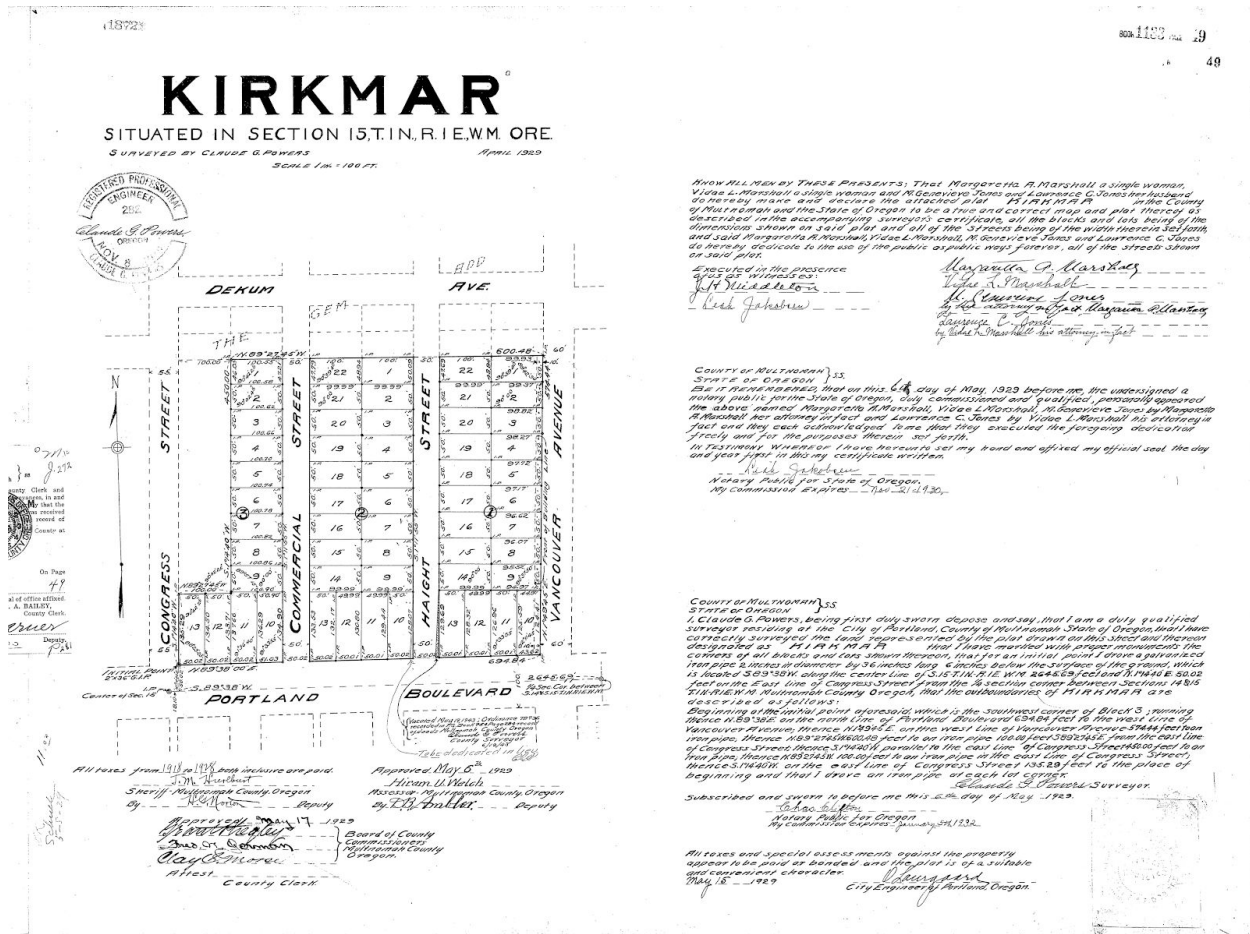
## Subdivisions: Kirkmar

Jan de Leeuw

Version 04-02-2018



On May 6 1929 the plat of Kirkmar, totalling just over 8 acres, was filed with the county by the unmarried sisters Margaretta A. Marshall and Vidae L. Marshall, their niece M. Genevieve Jones and her husband Lawrence C. Jones.



<http://www4.multco.us/Surveyimages/Plats/PL1000-1199/PL1133-049.PDF>

*Know all men by these presents: That Margaretta A. Marshall a single woman, and Vidae L. Marshall a single woman and M. Genevieve Jones and Lawrence C. Jones her husband do hereby make and declare the attached plat Kirkmar in the County of Multnomah and the State of Oregon to be a true and correct map and plat thereof as described in the accompanying surveyor's certificate all the blocks and lots being of the dimensions shown on said plat and all of the streets being of the width therein set forth and said Margaretta A. Marshall, Vidae L. Marshall, M. Genevieve Jones and Lawrence C. Jones do hereby dedicate to the use of the public as public ways forever, all of the streets shown on said plat.*

From the other parts of the text we see that only the sisters Marshall were present at the notarization, and that they had power of attorney to sign for the Jones couple, who lived in California.

On the plat map, note the cutout in the northwest corner, where a 100 by 450 feet strip is not included in the plat. These remained separate tax lots, which are not part of one of the major subdivisions. In the same way Kirkmar ends 100 feet south of Dekum. The blocks to the north are parts of the Gem Addition.

## Developer

We have more biographical information about the Marshall sisters, and about the Marshall family more generally, in the “persons” part of this book.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MJQ1znbbb-JXkkoa58FNRpOHlnSN3Ot8>

For our purposes it suffices to make the rather safe conjecture that the name Kirkmar came from the sisters’ mother, Margaretta Marshall, née Kirk, who died in 1896, and did own the land after the death in 1887 of father George Marshall.

## Development

It took quite a long time for development to get underway. Initially there were advertisements in the Oregonian which indicated Kirkmar, or part of Kirkmar, was used as a (small) practice golf course. This is from the Oregonian of around 1930.



We cannot use the Block Book or the Sanborn maps to see what was there in 1906 or 1924-1928, because nothing was. The Sanborn maps simply show a large empty lot.

It seems that development did not start seriously until around 1940, which was around the time Margaretta and Videa Marshall died, in, respectively, 1939 and 1942.

## ***Kirkmar Makes Rapid Progress In Development***

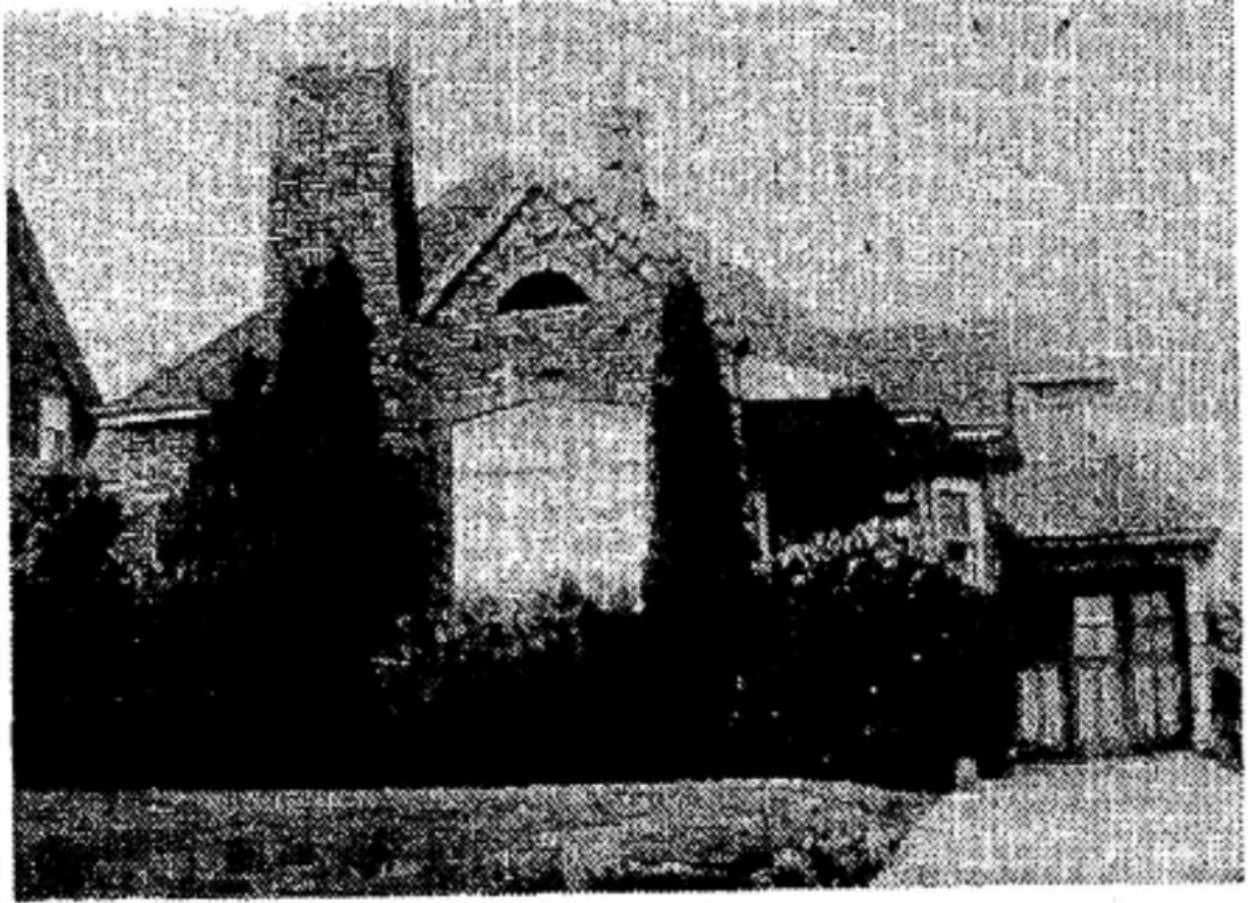
Exceptional progress has been made in the development of Kirkmar addition, a residential district opposite Piedmont, according to Wolf Templeman, realtor at 511 North Portland boulevard.

Mike Mohl, builder, has just completed a new house at 6607 North Commercial avenue, which was purchased by Sidney Klahn. Mr. Mohl intends to erect a number of homes in Kirkmar. A building restriction will assure the prospective home owner of the maintenance of a standard of dwellings which will not detract from the appearance of the district or the value of the property, according to Templeman.

The proximity of Kirkmar addition to the shopping district, churches, schools and Peninsula park, and its accessibility by street car and trackless trolley make it especially desirable as a location for a home, Templeman said.

[Morning Oregonian, February 28, 1937](#)





**Residence at 6546 North Commercial street in Kirkmar addition,  
sold to Marie Healey Smith through G. M. Burton Realty company.**

[Sunday Oregonian, November 20, 1938](#)

# New District Termed 'Hit'

Opening of the Kirkmar residential district has been one of the outstanding successes of the residential developments in Portland, in the opinion of Charles H. Derrie, president of Cooley & Rinehart company, realty firm in the Railway Exchange building.

Eight houses have just been completed in this new district by Edwin Sandberg, builder, at a cost of approximately \$45,000. Additional new building is contemplated for the district.

"There is an exceptional demand for this type of new house which features all new conveniences at a popular price," Mr. Derrie remarked. His firm is the exclusive sales agent for the district being developed by Mr. Sandberg.

"With the FHA insured loans that are available, home ownership is easy—one of the easiest things that has come to the average person in recent years.

"Don't be a laggard and hold off until it is too late," Mr. Derrie advised.