May 23, 1939. H. C. SAHLMANN 2,159,182

STRUCTURAL MEMBER

Filed Dec. 14, 1938

FIG. 1.

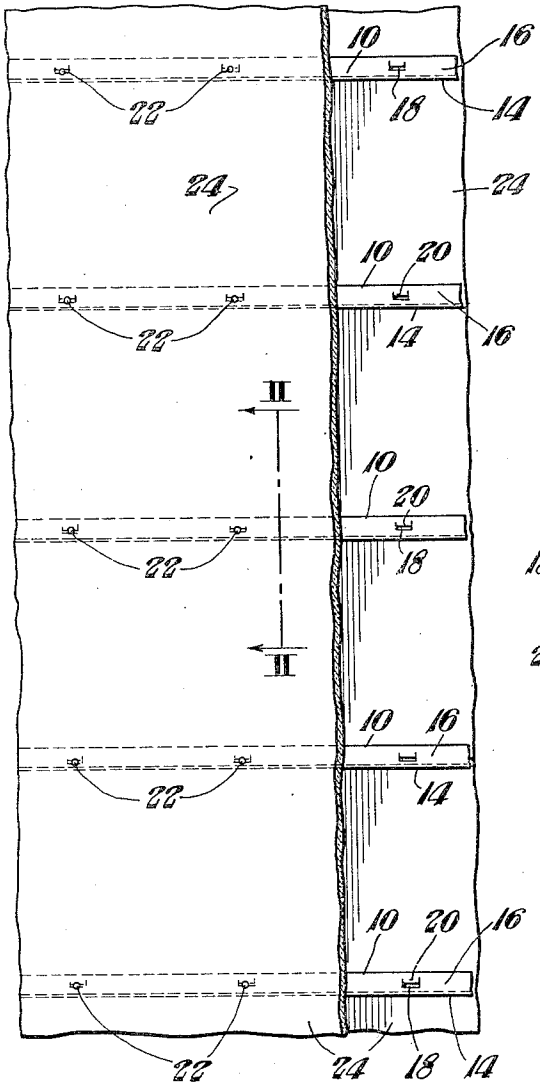
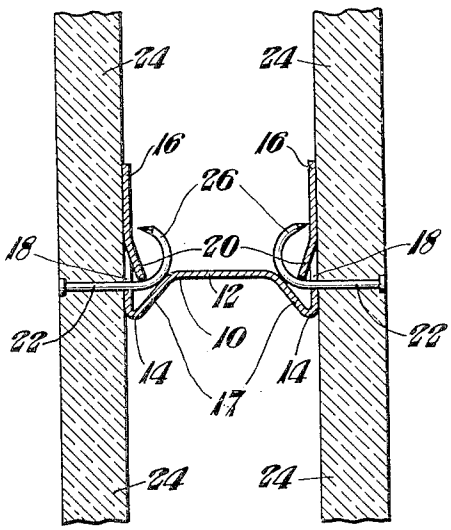


FIG. 2.



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STRUCTURAL MEMBER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 72—118)

This invention relates to improvements in structural members and aims to provide means for attaching a wall covering to steel framing by the use of conventional nails. The invention will be apparent from the following detailed disclosure, when read in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of a wall covering which is held in place by nails received by my improved structural member; and

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical section taken on line II—II of Figure 1.

Referring in detail to the drawing, a plurality of pressed steel substantially U-shaped members 10 are secured to suitable upright studding, not shown. Each member 10 is of modified U-shaped form, as shown in the enlarged cross-section in Figure 2, the web 12 being disposed in a plane intermediate the outer extremities 14—14 and 16—16 of the flange portions and the portions of the web adjacent the points of junction with the flanges being bent as shown, thus forming inclined nail deflecting walls 17—17.

At suitably spaced intervals the flanges 16 are slitted, as indicated at 18, thus providing inwardly inclined lips 20 whose inner ends terminate in a plane intermediate the planes of junction between the inclined wall and said web and flanges. The slit portions 18, in cooperating with the lips 20, form nail receiving apertures. As thus arranged, when nails 22 are driven into wall panels or sheathing 24, the point of each nail will first pass through the slit 18 and, as it continues inwardly under the driving force of the hammer, will strike the inclined wall 17, whereupon a cam-like action will be exerted and it will react against the extremity of the lip 20 and thus be bent or curved around so as to form the hook shaped end 26. Thus the nails may be said to be self-clinching when used in combination with the supporting elements of the structure and configuration described. The nail is gripped tightly between the edge of the slit 18 and the extremity of the bent-in portion of the lip and is thus securely held.

It is contemplated that various detail changes may be made without departure from the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In combination, a channel-shaped supporting element comprising a pair of opposite flat parallel flanges, a flat web portion spaced inwardly from the edges of the flanges and connected thereto by respective oblique portions whose outer extremities join respective flanges at outer edges thereof, the flanges being slit opposite the oblique portions, a wall panel whose inner face abuts an outer face of one of said flanges, and a nail piercing said element and passing through a slit in said flange and engaging said oblique portion.

2. In combination, an upright stud of substantially channel shape comprising a pair of opposite parallel flanges, a web portion spaced inwardly from the edges of the flanges and connected thereto by oppositely inclined coextensive oblique portions whose outer extremities join respective flanges at outer edges thereof, the flanges being slit at a region opposite the oblique portions and provided with inwardly bent lips adjacent the slit portions, a wall covering element whose inner face abuts one of said flanges, a nail piercing the element and passing through one of said slits and engaging one of said lips and the oblique wall adjacent thereto.

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