F. A. W. DAVIS.

BUILDING BLOCK.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 28, 1908.

917,930. Patented Apr. 13, 1909.

Fig. 1.

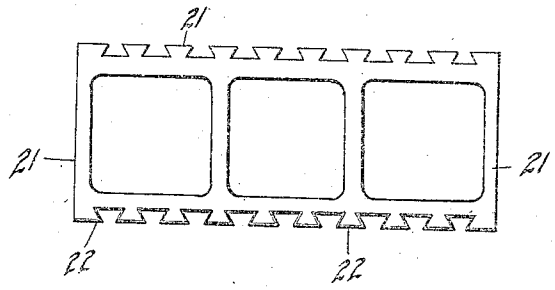
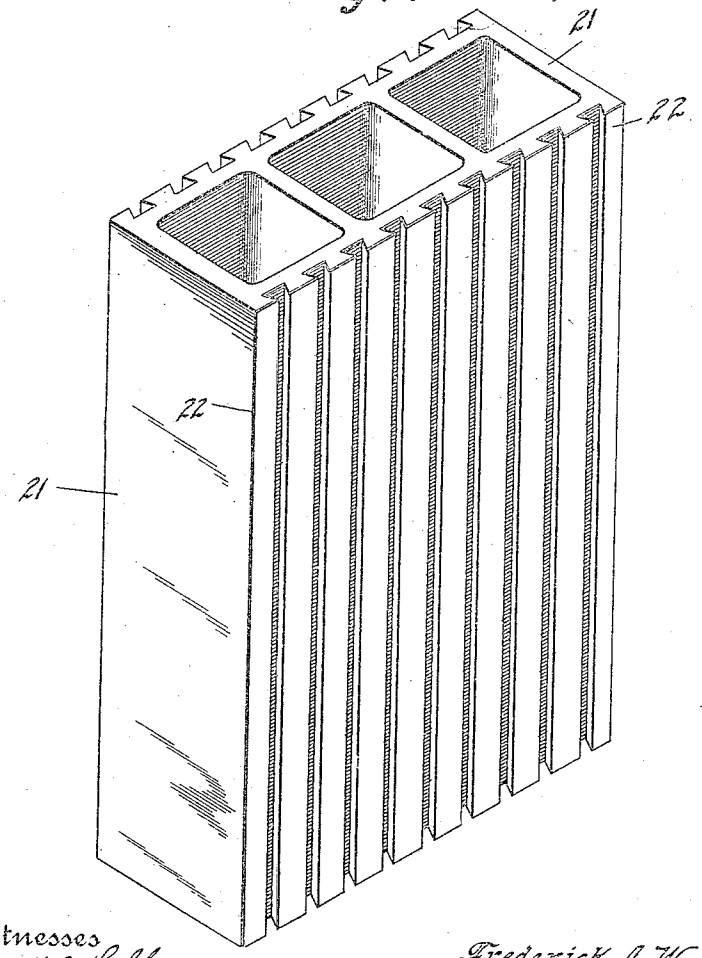



Fig. 2.




Witnesses
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK A. W. DAVIS, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

## BUILDING-BLOCK.

No. 917,930. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 13, 1909.

Application filed September 28, 1908. Serial No. 454,993.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK A. W. DAVIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Building-Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

One of the modern methods of erecting buildings consists in first preparing blocks molded from plastic material, such as clay, concrete, or the like, and building the same into a wall, and covering the surface with a suitable plaster. Such buildings have been subject to the objection that the walls would absorb moisture, thus rendering the buildings to a large degree unfit for habitation.

It is the object of my present invention to provide a building block of the character in question which shall be impervious to moisture, or substantially so, and thus avoid the objectionable condition referred to.

It consists in embodying in the block an impervious skin, which, however, shall be of such character as to enable the plaster coat with which the wall is covered to adhere strongly thereto.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, and on which similar reference characters indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a plan view of one end of a building block of the character in question embodying my said invention, and Fig. 2 is a perspective view of such a block.

The block which I have chosen to illustrate is of the character frequently referred to as hollow tile; but, obviously, the invention is applicable to any other of the forms of blocks utilizable for the purpose. This block 21 is to be provided, as is customary, with ribs or other suitable irregularities upon its surface around which the plaster will extend, and by means of which such plaster is firmly secured thereto. Upon one side of the block I place a sheet of impervious material 22, such as sheet metal, shaped to form the ribs, or other indentations to receive the plaster, such devices being usually ribs of what is known as the "dovetail" form. As above stated, however, the formation of these ribs or other irregularities is immaterial, so long as they are suitable for the purpose. When the sheet of impervious material has been given the desired form, it is placed in the mold by means of which the building block is to be formed, and the plastic material from which said block is to be formed is then forced into the mold in the ordinary way, and the block is thus completed. When completed, the impervious skin has become an integral part of the block, and it is ready to be assembled with others into the wall to be erected, and its surface is suitable to receive the plaster with which the wall is to be coated.

The voids in these building blocks may or may not be filled with concrete when the wall is erected, according to the desire of the builder.

As will be readily understood, with the outer surface of these building blocks completely covered with sheet metal or such like impervious material, the ordinary objection of dampness in buildings constructed of such walls is completely overcome. Not only is a building block produced which avoids the objection of dampness, but one which can be so assembled as to receive an exterior coating after it is assembled by means of which all joints may be covered, giving the structure substantially a monolithic character.

Having thus fully described my said invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A building block consisting of a body molded from plastic material and a sheet of impervious material forming a side thereof, said sheet of impervious material having a formation with which the plastic material will interengage whereby it becomes an integral part of the block when finished, said formation also constituting a surface with which plaster will likewise interengage when applied to the wall in which the blocks are embodied.

2. A wall comprising a plurality of hollow blocks of absorbent ceramic material having their outer surfaces rendered non-absorbent, projecting portions upon the sides of said blocks forming binding surfaces thereon, and a finishing plastic upon one or more of said binding surfaces.

In witness whereof, I, have hereunto set my hand and seal at Indianapolis, Indiana, this twenty-fifth day of September, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and eight.

FREDERICK A. W. DAVIS. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

CHESTER BRADFORD,

THOMAS W. MCMEANS.