

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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WALL-SIGN STRUCTURE.

1,057,117.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAY CHAPIN, a citizen of the United States, and residing in the borough of Edgewood, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented or discovered new and useful Improvements in Wall-Sign Structures, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists in new and useful improvements in wall signs.

More particularly it relates to the structure of such signs and the manner of attaching the same to the wall or other support.

Wall signs are now commonly constructed of thin sheet metal with beveled or rearwardly inclined edges and mounted on a plate or backing of wood. They are attached to the wall by means of screws passing through the sign and its wooden backing.

My object is to dispense with the wooden backing with its evident defects and unsatisfactory features, and to stiffen and strengthen the sign by means of metallic reinforcement.

My object is further to provide means for securely attaching the sign to the wall in such a manner as not to mar its appearance or to dent or damage the sign by the installation or presence of the fastening means.

Other novel features of structure and arrangement of parts will appear from the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a wall sign embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section along the line II—II in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail along the line III—III in Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a perspective of one of the angle-members shown in Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is an end view showing another method of attaching the angle-member to the sign.

The following is a detailed description of the drawings.

A is the sign proper to be mounted on the wall or other support B. The sign A is composed of a thin sheet of metal, usually copper and is usually provided with rearwardly and outwardly extending edge flanges 1—1 whose outer edges impinge against the surface of the wall B.

2—2 represent the letters which are dis-

played on the face of the sign and shown in Figs. 1 and 2 as made separate from the sign and secured thereto by means of bolts, 3—3, whose ends are usually embedded in the letters 2—2 which latter are usually cast of bronze or other non-corrosive material. The bolts 3—3 pass through holes punched through the sign A at the properly spaced intervals required for positioning the letters to form the desired wording.

C—C represent one or more metal angle-members which serve to brace and stiffen the sign and space it properly from the wall B. Said angle-members are shown running horizontally but it will be understood that the same may be vertical or diagonal, as may be desired. However, where the wording is displayed in horizontal lines, as shown, I prefer to place the angle-members horizontally, one of such members in the rear of each line of the wording. One flange, as 4, of said angle-members abuts against the back face of the sign A while the other flange, as 5, extends rearwardly to the vertical plane of the outer edges of the edge flanges 1—1, so that when the sign A is placed against the wall B the edge flanges 1—1 and the flanges 5—5 of the angle-members C—C bear against said wall B.

In Fig. 2, I have shown the members C—C secured to the back face of the sign A by means of the bolts 3—3 which also secure the letters 2—2 in place, said bolts passing through holes in the flanges 4—4 of said members, washers 6—6 and nuts 7—7 engaging the ends of said bolts and bearing tightly against the said flanges 4—4.

To avoid special punching of each member C—C to accommodate the bolts 3—3 of the letters 2—2, I prefer to provide the said flanges 4—4 with one or more longitudinal series of slots 8—8 through which said bolts 3—3 may extend. I am therefore enabled to make up said angle-members in lengths and cut the same to proper size for the individual signs in such a manner that the letter-bolts 3—3 will register with said slots 8—8.

In Fig. 5, I have indicated a portion of an etched or enameled sign A¹ upon which the lettering is placed by etching or enameling. In such cases the use of bolts or rivets for attaching the flange 4 of the member C would unduly mar the sign. In such case

I may solder or braze the member C in place. I prefer to attach the members C in like manner to the back face of the sign A, shown in Fig. 2, when said members do not happen to be located in the rear of a line of letters.

For the purpose of attaching the sign to the wall, I punch a plurality of holes 9—9 in the sign A, preferably one at each corner.

10 10 is a metal cylinder, preferably provided with an annular end flange 11 which bears upon the front face of the sign A when said cylinder is inserted through the hole 9. The cylinder 10 is of sufficient length that its inner end bears against the wall B.

D is an ornamental boss or cap, preferably cast of bronze and notched to fit down snugly over the flanged end of cylinder 10 and bear lightly on the front face of sign A. The boss D is provided with a central hole through which a screw or bolt 12 is inserted, passing through the cylinder 10 and entering the wall B. It is evident that the screw or bolt 12 may tighten very snugly without injury to the sign as the tension and force are assumed by the boss D and cylinder 10, which latter abuts against the wall B. The installation or removal of the sign is therefore easily accomplished without danger of denting or damaging the sheet metal of sign A.

When the sign is in place on the wall the members C—C keep the same spaced the proper distance from the wall and safely assume all blows or forces which would otherwise either dent in the sign or flatten or bend the edge flanges 1—1.

Signs of this character are usually installed by persons who have little or no experience in such work, and a sign which will not withstand moderately rough handling is not a good selling proposition. My sign answers all commercial and structural requirements, and is both inexpensive to manufacture and possessed of great durability.

What I desire to claim is:—

1. A wall sign composed of a plate of sheet metal having edge flanges extending rearwardly to the wall, metal angle members having one flange bearing against the back face of said plate and having the other flange extending rearwardly and bearing against the face of the wall, separate metal letter members mounted on the front face of said plate and common fastening means engaging said letter members and said angle members and passing through said plate to bind the structure together.

2. In combination with a sheet metal wall sign provided with rearwardly extending edge flanges, separate letters adapted to be mounted on the front face of the sign, bolts on said letters extending through holes in said sign, an angle-member having one of its flanges bearing against the back face of said sign, said flange being provided with slots extending longitudinally of said angle-member through which said bolts pass to permit of adjustment, and having its second flange extending rearwardly to the plane of the edges of said edge flanges to contact with the wall, and nuts screwed on said bolts against said angle-member, for the purpose described.

3. Means for attaching a sheet metal sign to a wall composed of means for spacing the face of the sign from the wall, a cylinder extending through a hole in said sign and bearing on the wall, a separate ornamental cap bearing upon the outer end of said cylinder and the front face of said sign and a fastening member extending through said cap and said cylinder and engaging said wall, for the purpose described.

Signed at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this 16th day of May, 1912.

JAY CHAPIN.

Witnesses:

E. A. LAURENCE,
JOHN JENKINS.