

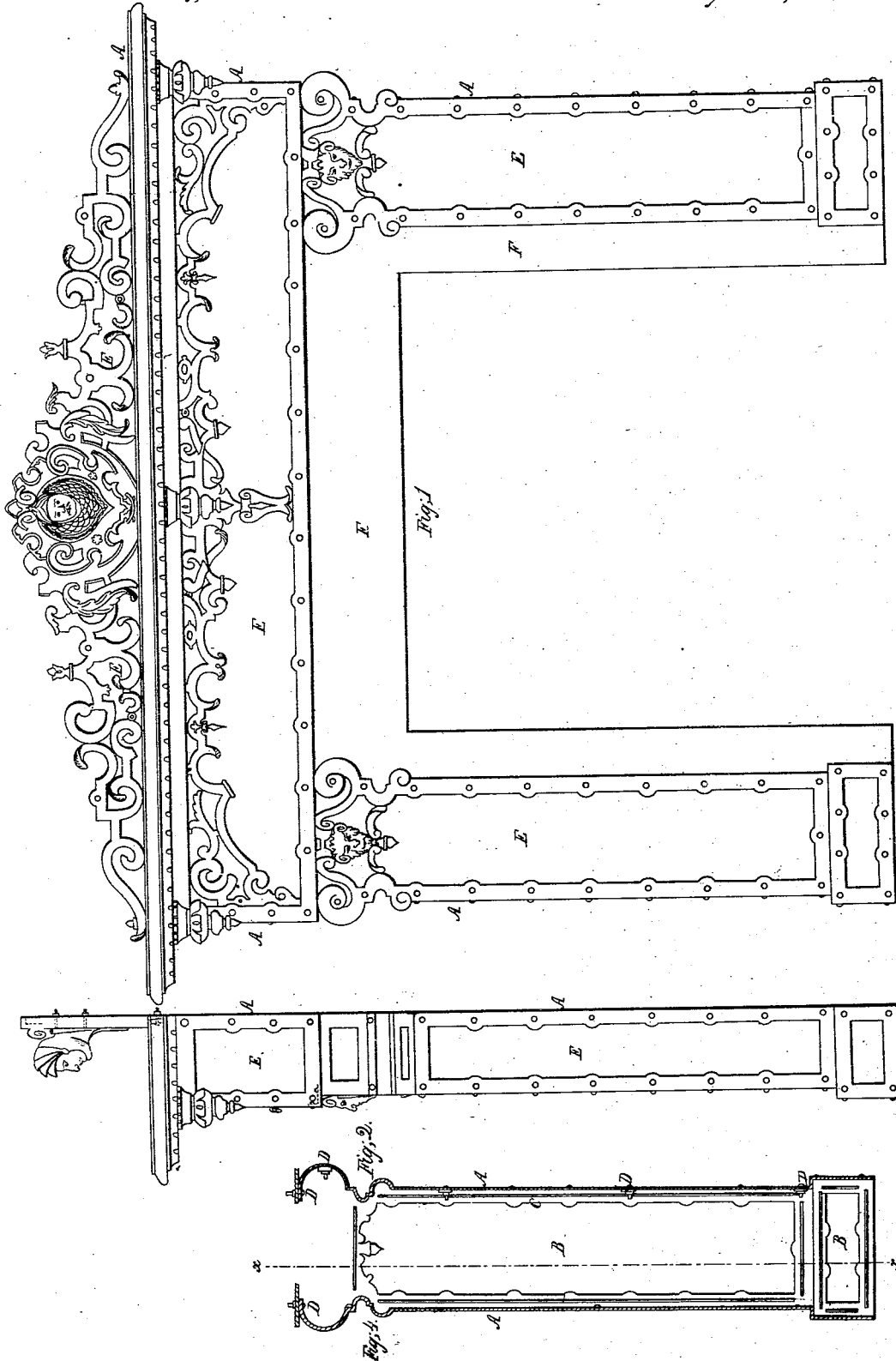
*H. Tucker.*

*Steel 1-2, Steel 3.*

*Interior Fittings.*

*No 7,253.*

*Patented Apr. 2, 1850.*

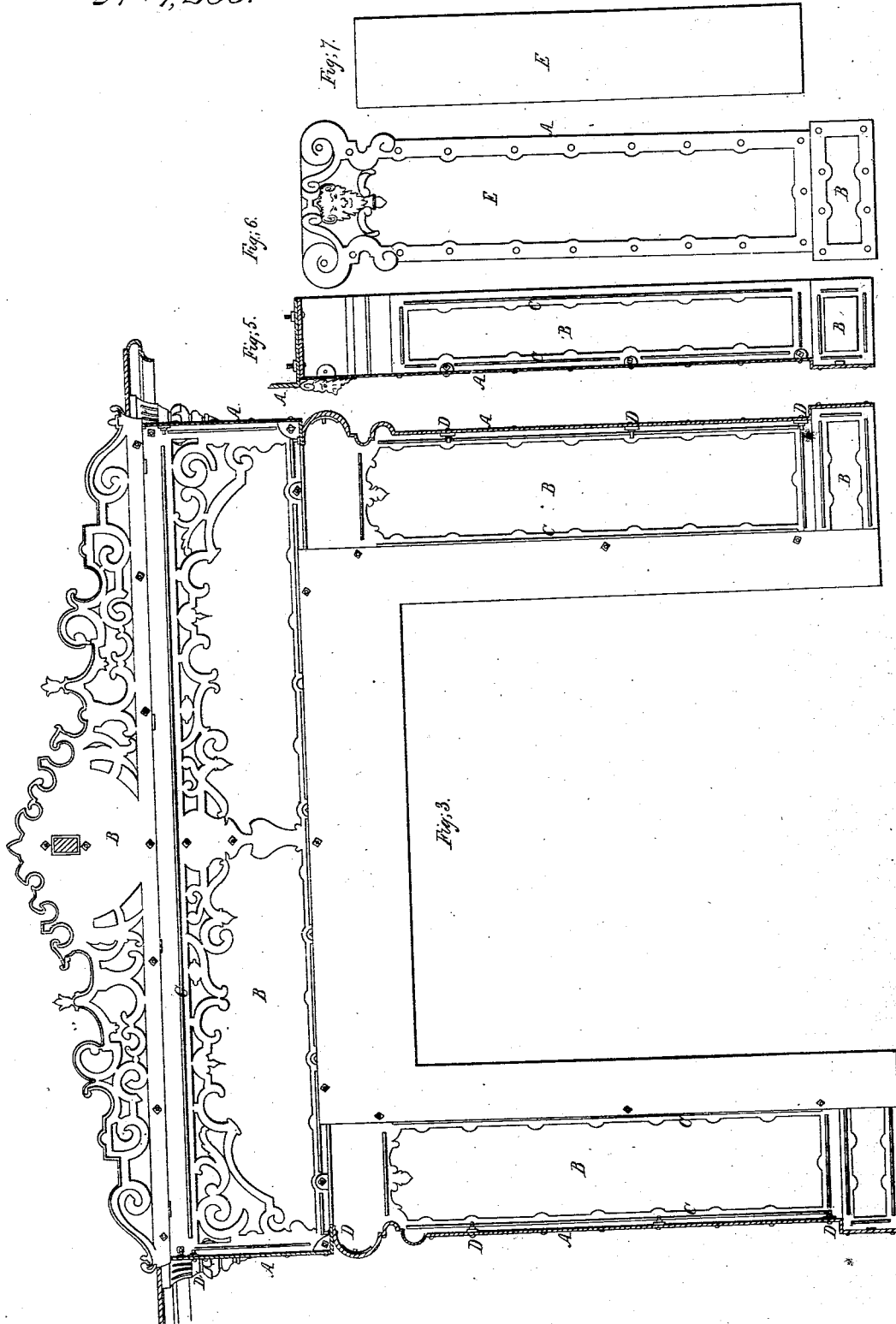


*H. Tucker.*

*Interior Fittings.*

*No 7,263.*

*Patented Apr. 2, 1860.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM TUCKER, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

## MANTELPIECE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 7,253, dated April 2, 1850.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HIRAM TUCKER, of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Manufacture of Mantelpieces, and that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the principle or character which distinguishes it from all other things before known and of the usual manner of making, modifying, and using the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1, is a front elevation. Fig. 2, is an elevation of one end. Fig. 3, is an elevation of the iron frame or guard. Fig. 4, is a plan of the back of one of the pilasters. Fig. 5, is a vertical section on the line *x, x*, of Fig. 4. Fig. 6, is a front elevation of a plate of glass. Fig. 7 is a back view of the same.

The nature of my invention consists in forming a mantel-piece of glass or similar material properly ornamented on its back by paint or otherwise, and surrounded and guarded by a cast iron frame-work, which shields the glass from injury by accident; said metal frame serving at the same time as an ornament, which can be highly elaborated into any pattern that the fancy of the manufacturer may suggest; by means of which I am enabled to form mantel-pieces of the greatest beauty and durability, at a comparatively small cost to what they could be made in any material before used for that purpose.

In order to construct a mantel-piece according to my plan, I first prepare a set of patterns of the several parts of the frame or guard, according to the design I may adopt. From these patterns I prepare the necessary castings to form a frame A, of the mantel-piece, containing as many open panels B, as there are to be plates of glass in the combination. These castings are formed with rabbets C, to confine the plates of glass and protect their edges; also with flanges and ears for the admission of screw bolts D, by which the several parts are confined together. The castings are then made smooth by rubbing and filing, or by other means. The several castings, comprising the frame of the mantel-piece, are fitted together; they are then taken apart and japanned, bronzed,

or colored. The plates of glass F, are variegated, or painted on the surfaces next the wall, to imitate the finest marbles or other articles; and when dry, are placed in the metallic frame to form the marbled portions of the pilasters and frieze and ornamental pediment above the mantel, or cornice, and secured by plaster of Paris, or other durable cement. To render the plates of glass still more firm and secure, I cover their painted surfaces or backs next the wall, with a coat of plaster of Paris, or other durable cement, which renders them firm and secure against fracture. The japanned surfaces of the castings are then polished; the several parts of the mantel-piece are now ready to be shipped abroad, or removed to the building and put up. In putting up the mantel-piece T shaped bolts embedded in the brick or stone work, or furring of the building, are employed to confine it to the wall more securely; said bolts passing through corresponding apertures in the castings, and having nuts screwed on them. The mantel-piece, however, can be secured to the walls in various ways, either by staples or other means; or it would retain its upright position against the wall by the use of durable cement alone. The joints around the mantel-piece being properly jointed and colored, the mantel-piece will be completed, and present a much richer appearance than the entire marble mantel-piece in use.

The several castings should be of uniform thickness, say about a quarter of an inch. The shelf, or cornice, should be hollow, but have the appearance of solidity and thickness, in front, and at the ends. The lining F, around the fireplace should be cast in a single piece, and set back of the pilasters, and secured thereto, by screws or other suitable fastenings. The whole of the metallic work may be bronzed, and made to possess a very rich appearance, and may be more or less ornamented. The plates of glass should be about a quarter of an inch thick, but may be of greater or less thickness, and be highly polished.

Having thus fully described my improved mantle piece, what I claim therein as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The manufacture of mantle pieces, by the

combination of cast iron frames of ornamental open work, with a back, or ground work of plate glass, or other vitrified substance, colored in imitation of marble, or  
5 after any other style of decoration; the said ground work being secured to the frames by means of plaster of Paris, or any other

means that gives strength and support to the whole, substantially as described.

HIRAM TUCKER.

Witnesses:

J. J. GREENOUGH,  
T. C. DONN.