

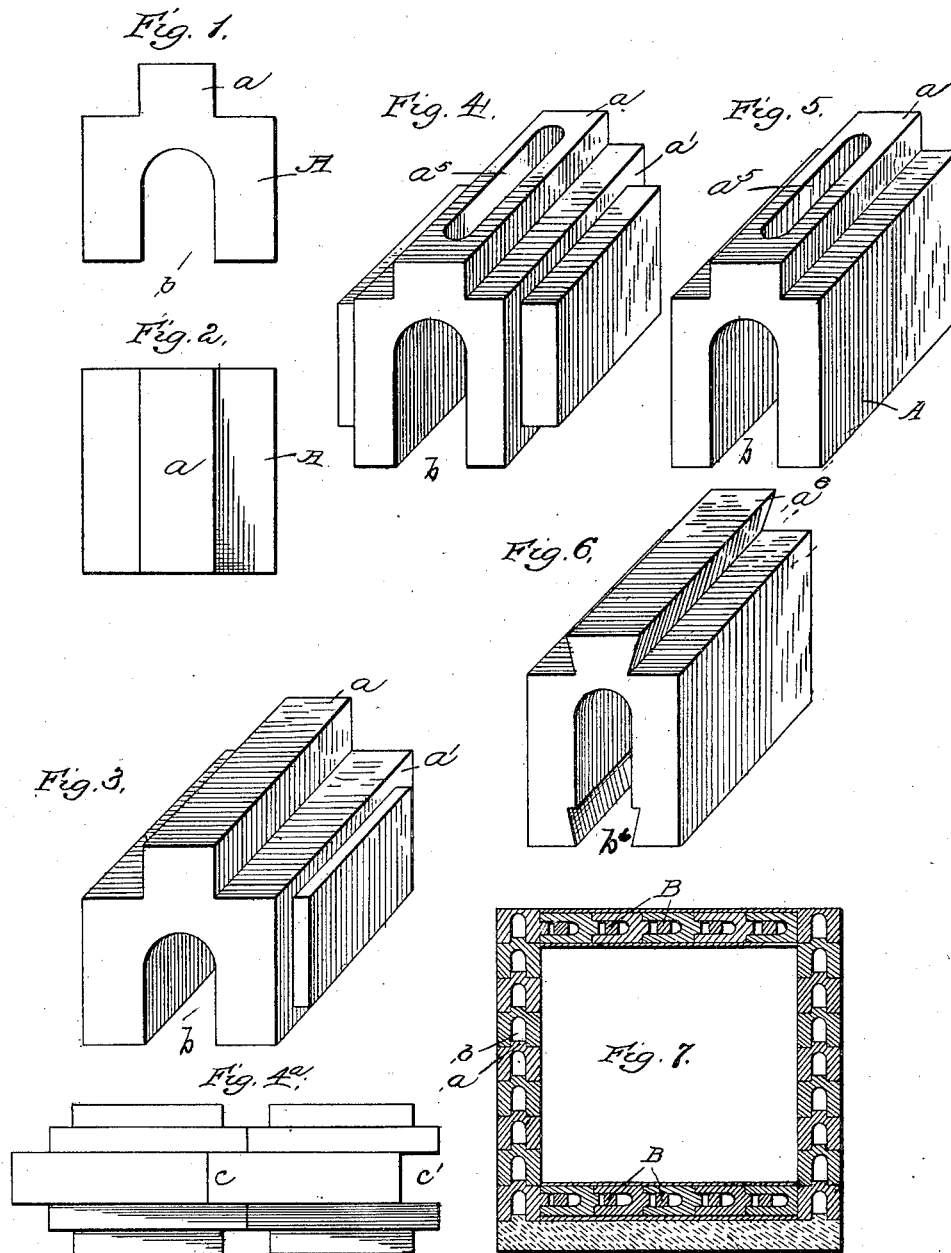
No. 676,803.

Patented June 18, 1901.

W. E. SHAW.
BUILDING BLOCK.

(Application filed July 28, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
Edw. L. Reed,
J. B. Middleton

Inventor:
William E. Shaw,
by Wm. E. Shaw
Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. SHAW, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

BUILDING-BLOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 676,803, dated June 18, 1901.

Application filed July 28, 1900, Serial No. 25,174. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. SHAW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in Building-Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in blocks for building and similar purposes.

One object of the invention is to secure a
10 block of such a shape as will provide a continuous air space or spaces throughout the wall, which may be utilized when desired for ventilating purposes.

A further object is to provide a block of such
15 a shape that a plurality of them can be supported upon bars or beams which are wholly contained within and concealed by the blocks forming the wall or ceiling or the like which the beams support.

I have illustrated the invention in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an end elevation of a block constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view. Fig. 3 is a perspective
25 view of a modification. Figs. 4, 4^a, 5, and 6 are similar views of still further modifications. Fig. 7 is a view of a structure made up of my building-blocks.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 5, the individual block is indicated at A and is shown of a
30 general rectangular shape, but may of course be of any size and shape suited to the structure for which it is desired. On one face the block is provided with a centrally-arranged
35 rib *a*, which is designed to aline with and engage a corresponding channel or recess *b* in the opposite wall. This groove or channel is of greater depth than the height of the rib, so
40 that when two blocks are in juxtaposition, as indicated in Fig. 7, there will be a space between the face of the rib and the bottom of the channel. As shown in the drawings, it
45 will be seen that this space is of considerable size, as the groove or channel in each block extends into close proximity to the ribbed side
50 of the block; but the block is not weakened to an injurious degree thereby, for the reason that when the rib of one block is in the groove or channel of the adjoining block it supports
the bifurcated portions, while the space very materially lightens the block. Where the

block is used for vertical walls, each block is arranged with its ribbed edge uppermost, and it will thus be seen that in this position each block presents an arch structure, which, as is
55 well known, is exceedingly strong. As the blocks are laid in horizontal alinement, a plurality of air-spaces are provided extending throughout the length of the wall. This is a material advantage, as it avoids much of the
60 injurious effects of expansion and contraction.

Where the block is used for horizontal surfaces—as, for instance, floors and ceilings—as indicated at the top and bottom of Fig. 7, the
65 blocks may be supported by beams B, placed within the openings formed by the grooves or channels, and thus the beams will be fully protected from the action of the elements and hidden from view. It will be further observed
70 that the wall is a sealed wall, as the interlocking tongues form an exceedingly close joint. The blocks may be laid with any suitable cement.

If desired, I may form a rabbet *a'* completely
75 around each side face of the block, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and the grooves thus formed by the rabbets of the adjoining blocks may be filled with cement.

If desired, I may provide the ends of the
80 blocks with interlocking tongues *c* and grooves *c'*, as indicated in Fig. 4^a.

In the forms illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 I lighten the block for some purposes by providing an elongated opening *a*⁵ in the rib. Also,
85 if desired, the rib may be made dovetailed, as at *a*⁶, Fig. 6, to engage corresponding dovetailed portions *b*⁶ in the adjoining channel portion.

I claim as my invention—

1. A block for building and similar purposes having a groove or channel extending from one face through the major portion of the body of the block and forming side walls
95 coequal in extent, and a centrally-arranged shallow rib or tongue projecting from the opposite face of the block, substantially as described.

2. A block for building and similar purposes having a groove or channel in one face
100 and a correspondingly-located rib or tongue on the opposite face of less height than the

depth of the groove and a rabbet around the edges of the side face of the block, substantially as described.

5 3. A block for building and similar purposes having a groove or channel in one face and a correspondingly-located rib or tongue on the opposite face of less height than the depth of the groove, and a tongue at one end

and a corresponding groove at the other end of the block, substantially as described. 10

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM E. SHAW.

Witnesses:

LOUIS HASAGER,
JOHN M. ARMSTRONG.