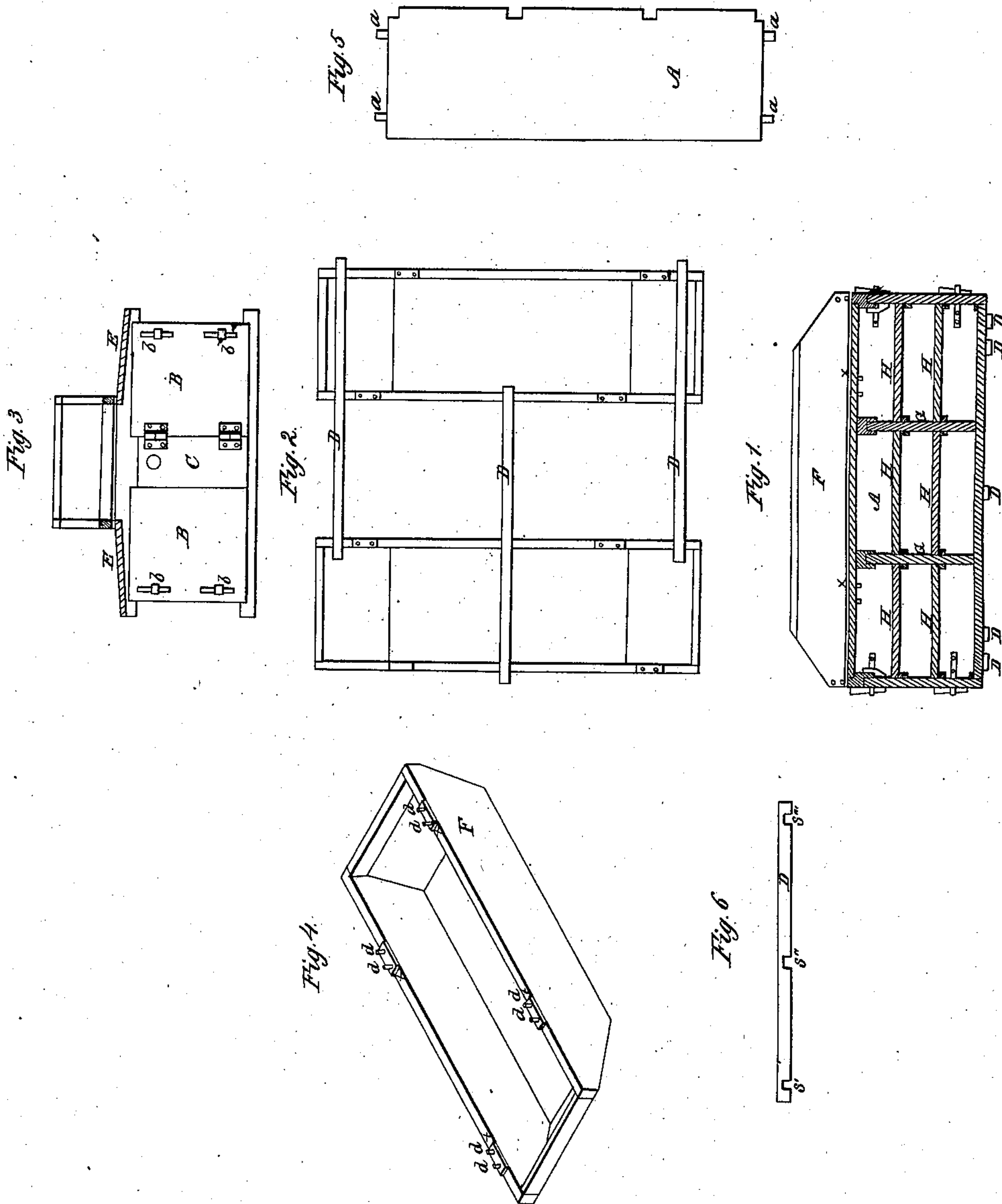


*J. C. Adams.*  
*Portable House.*

*No. 34,399.*

*Patented Feb. 18, 1862.*



*Witnesses:*  
*S. Johnson*  
*Charles H. Hanson*

*Inventor:*  
*J. C. Adams*  
*by C. M. Alexander*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. ADAMS, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COMBINED HOUSE, BRIDGE, BOAT, AND WAGON-BODY.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 34,399, dated February 18, 1862.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES C. ADAMS, of Baltimore, Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined House, Bridge, Boat, and Wagon-Body; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

In the annexed drawings, making part of this specification, Figures 1 and 3 represent different views of the house.

A represents one of the side boards of the house. These boards are made of three-fourths-inch stuff jointed and firmly secured together by means of cross-ribs or any other suitable manner, and are made six feet high and eighteen feet long. There are two of these side pieces, and they are provided with staples at their ends, which protrude through openings in the end pieces B B, and are fastened to said end pieces by means of keys or otherwise, as shown at *b b*, Fig. 3. Four of the end pieces B B are used, which may be made six feet high and five feet wide, leaving two feet for the door C, which is hinged to one of them. The floor of the house is formed by two boards made somewhat similar to the side boards and of the same dimensions. These floor-boards lie upon sleepers D D, which are constructed of three by four inch scantling and in the manner seen in Fig. 6. Four or six of these pieces of scantling may be used, or more, if necessary.

E E represent two boards, which are a little over three feet wide and eighteen feet long.

F represents the boat, which is made eighteen inches or two feet deep, six feet wide, and eighteen feet long. This boat fits upon top of the house when turned upside down, as shown in Fig. 3, and completes the roof. The boat is provided with pins *d d*, as seen in Fig. 4, which pass into suitable openings in the boards E E, for the purpose of holding it in proper position.

G G represent partition-boards, to which cleats are nailed for the purpose of forming the berths H H for the men to sleep in. There are six berths on each side capable of holding two men each. Thus twenty-four men are provided with sleeping-berths. The floor of the house is capable of holding twenty-six men comfortably. Thus the capacity of this sized house is ample for fifty men.

Cleats are nailed upon the boat, as shown

at *x x x*, so that it will not rest close to the top boards, but will leave a space between it and them for ventilating purposes. It will be seen that this ventilation is very perfect, being over the men, so that they are not liable to take cold from currents of air.

F represents, as has been stated, the boat. This boat also answers the purpose of a wagon-body. It is placed upon the wagon, and the boards of the house, all except the sides and bottom, are stored away in the bottom of it. The sides and bottom boards are laid upon the wagon, and then the boat or body is placed upon them.

The lumber composing the house does not fill more than six or eight inches of the space in the bottom of the boat, so that said boat or body may be used for other purposes also. Two houses may be carried in one wagon, in which case the boat of the second house is inverted and placed upon the one in which the houses are placed, and thus a cover is made for the body. Two boats may be always to one wagon for making a body and cover, if it is thought best.

When a bridge is to be formed, the boats are all placed side by side, and the sleepers D D are laid across the boats in the manner shown in Fig. 2; the notch *s'* being placed upon one edge of one boat and the notches *s'' s'''* being placed upon the two edges of the next boat. The lumber forming the house is then placed upon these sleepers, and is sufficient to make a double row of boards over the boats. Thus a very strong ponton-bridge is made very quickly.

The lumber in the house and boat will not weigh over five hundred pounds. I expect to build with much less weight, however, than this.

This house can be put up in a few moments, and it can be taken down and packed away in the body sooner than the ordinary tents could which would hold as many men as it does.

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

The within-described house or its equivalent, which can be converted into the uses herein set forth.

JAS. C. ADAMS.

Witnesses:

C. M. ALEXANDER,  
S. C. JOHNSON.