

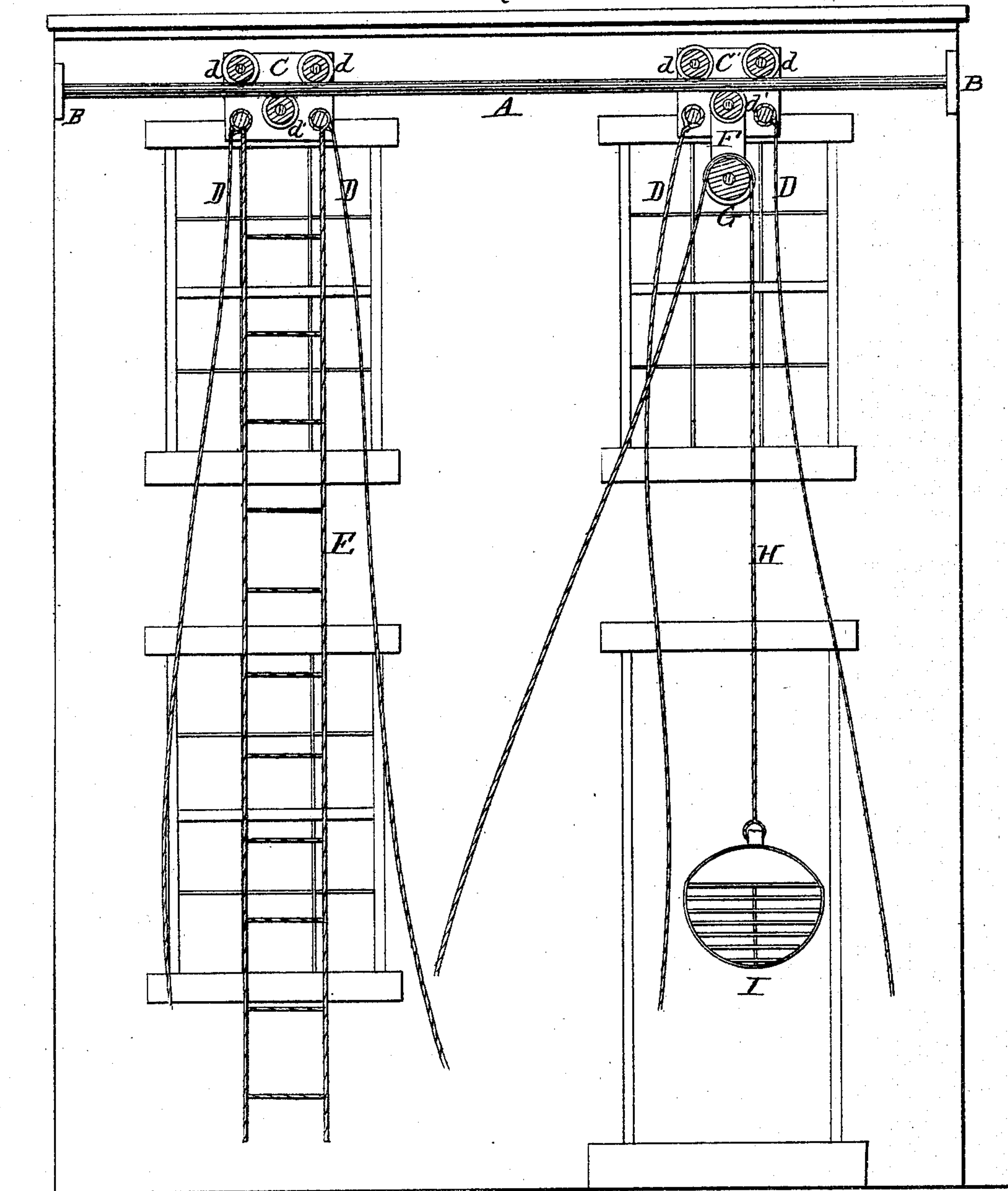
W. M. WATSON.

Improvement in Fire Escape.

No. 123,066.

Patented Jan. 23, 1872.

Fig. 1



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM MEDD WATSON, OF TONICA, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-ESCAPES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 123,066, dated January 23, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, W. M. WATSON, of Tonica, in the county of La Salle and State of Illinois, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fire-Escape; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawing making a part of this specification and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawing is a representation of a front view and partial section of my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail view, showing modification.

This invention has relation to fire-escapes; and it consists in the construction and novel arrangement of an apparatus to be used in assisting the escape of persons from the upper stories of burning buildings.

The nature of this invention is such as to provide means by which persons about to descend from high windows may avoid the flames escaping from windows below and on a line with the one from which the person is escaping. The means devised for this purpose consist of movable trucks provided with rollers, and drawn along a rod running the entire width of the building, the escape-ladder, car, or basket being supported by means of said trucks, they being moved as desired through the medium of ropes within reach of those on the ground below.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, A represents a strong iron rod, extending horizontally in front of a building, near the roof, and supported at each end by means of brackets B. C C' designate trucks provided with grooved wheels *d d'*, journaled above and below the rod A, on which the wheels *d* rest and roll. The under roller *d'* is important, and prevents accidental displacement of the truck, which is apt to occur both on account of the excitement which exists at such times and the fact that the truck is apt to be inclined by the persons at the guide-ropes, who may be forced to stand off from the building by the flames. D represents fire-proof ropes attached to the trucks C C' for the purpose of allowing them

to be moved along the rod A by persons standing on the ground below. E indicates a ladder, attached by its upper end to the truck C, and made of rope, chain, or in any other suitably-flexible manner. F indicates a stirrup attached to the truck C', and provided with a pulley-wheel, G, over which passes a fire-proof rope, H, attached to a basket or car, I. By means of said rope and pulley the basket I may be readily raised and lowered.

The ladder and basket are designed for the purpose of giving means of escape to persons confined in the upper stories of burning buildings, the ladder or basket being brought in front of the proper window, by moving the truck to which either is attached. Now, if, as often happens, the fire should be pouring out from the windows or doors below that from which the escape is being made, the truck is moved, after the person escaping has obtained a footing on the ladder or basket, to a clear space, through which a safe descent may be made. The ladder and basket may both be used together, or one only.

By the use of the basket property may be saved, as it may be constructed of any desirable capacity.

When not in use the ropes, ladder, and basket may be drawn up out of the way, and kept inside the uppermost story of the building, or on the roof.

The rod A and brackets B are designed for a fire-escape apparatus forming a permanent fixture of a building.

I claim as my invention—

The fire-escape apparatus, consisting of the rod A, basket I, ropes D H, and truck C, having the bearing-rollers *d d'*, the safety-roller *d'* under the rod, stirrup F, and pulley G, all constructed and operating substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM MEDD WATSON.

Witnesses:

J. S. UNDERHILL,
JAMES A. UNDERHILL.