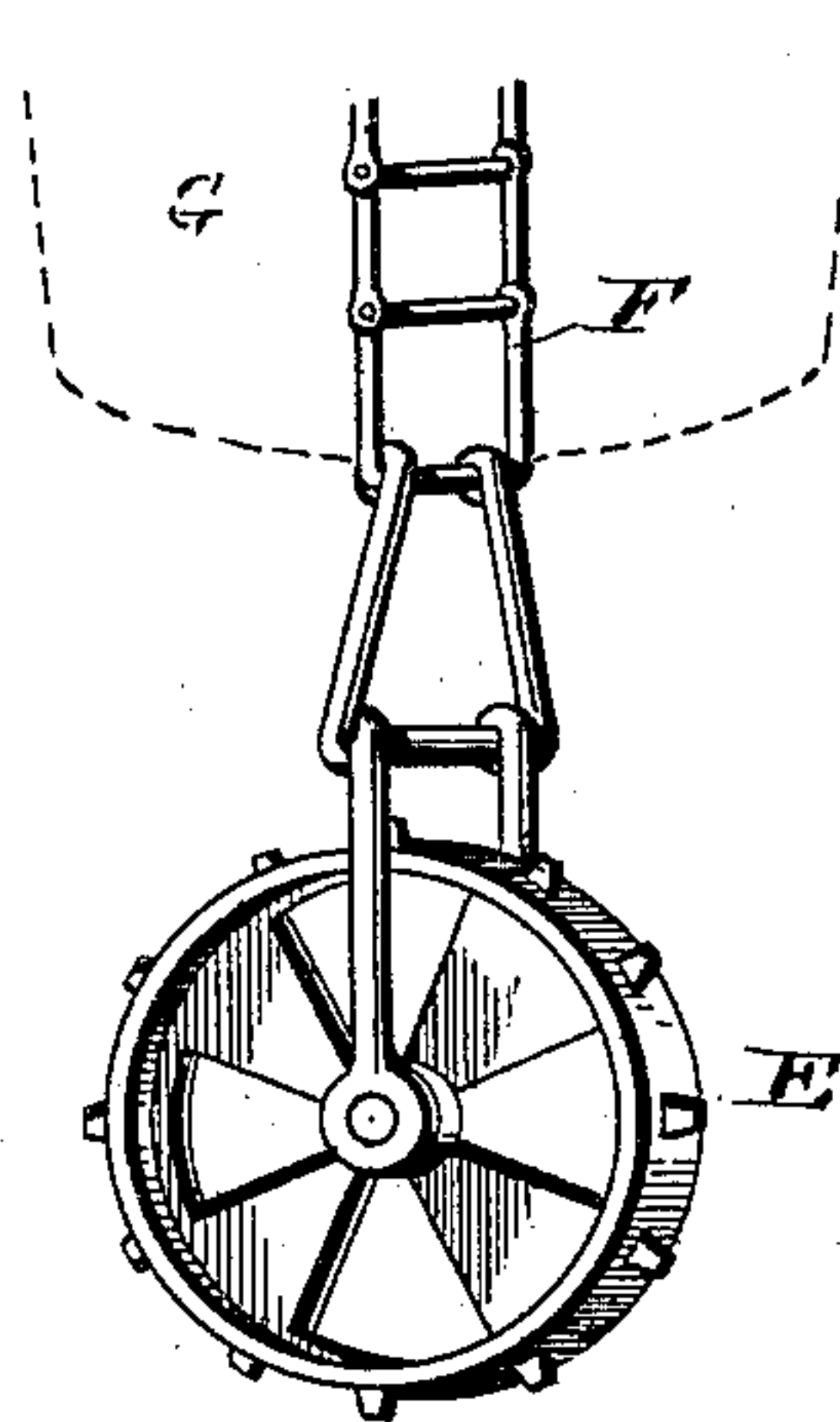
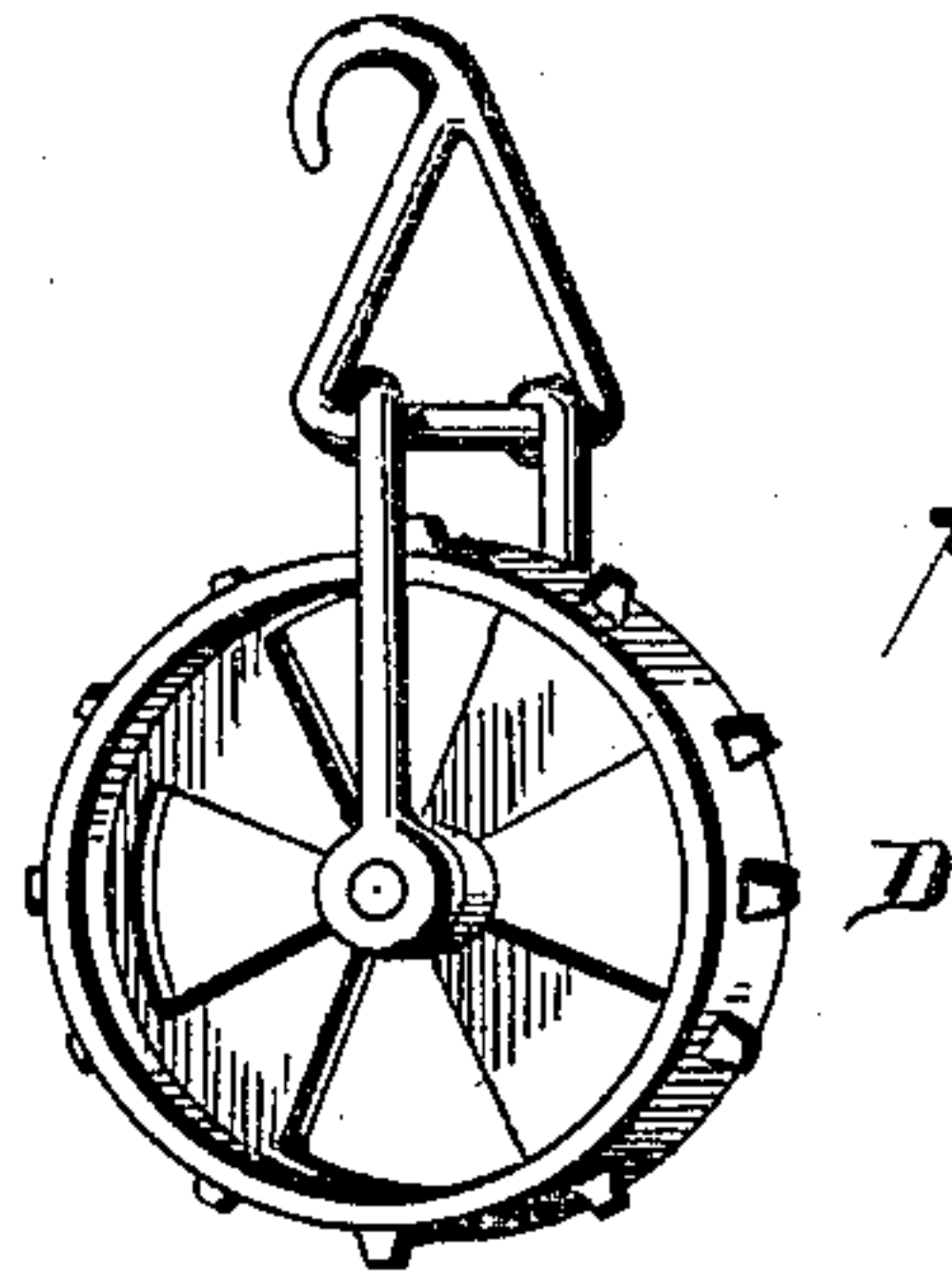
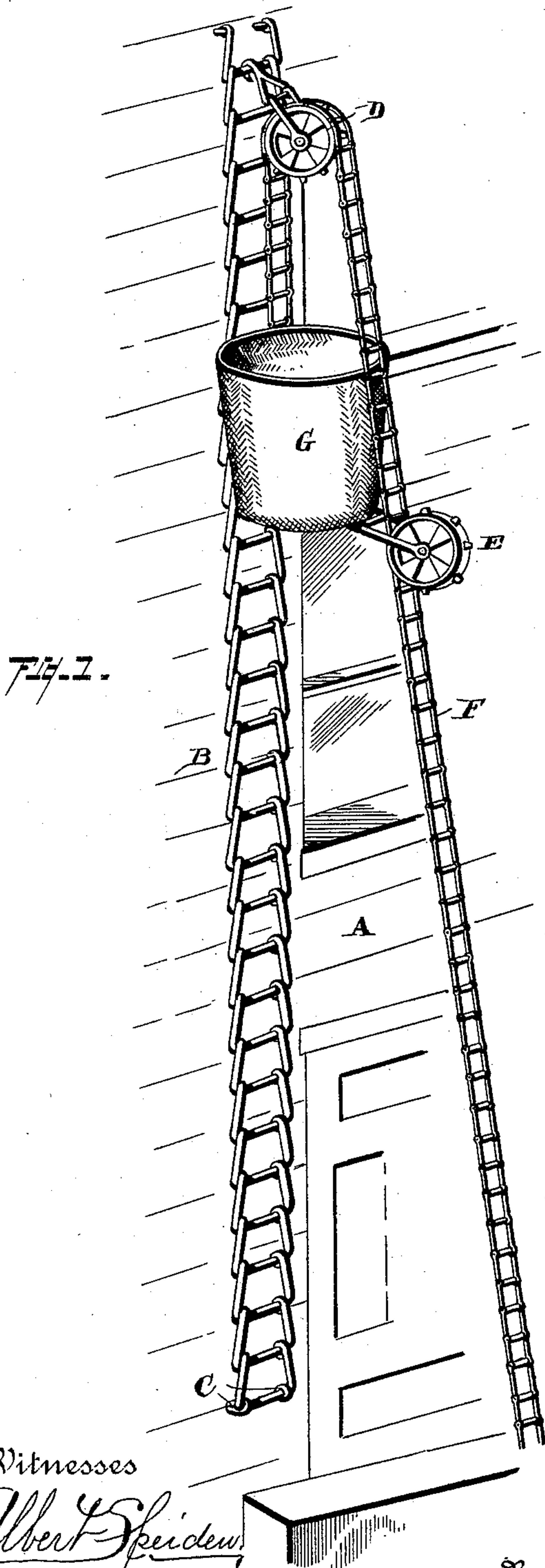


(No Model.)

W. J. PRATT.
FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 432,556.

Patented July 22, 1890.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER J. PRATT, OF LOWVILLE, NEW YORK.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 432,556, dated July 22, 1890.

Application filed December 21, 1889. Serial No. 334,535. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER J. PRATT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lowville, in the county of Lewis and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in fire-escapes; and it has for its object to simplify and cheapen the construction of fire-escapes and to render more efficient and serviceable in operation one of this class of devices.

To these ends, and to such others as the invention may pertain, the same consists in the peculiar construction and in the novel combination, arrangement, and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and afterwards specifically defined in the appended claims.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, like letters of reference indicating like parts throughout the several views, and in which drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a building equipped with a fire-escape in accordance with my invention. Figs. 2 and 3 are enlarged details in perspective, which will be more fully hereinafter referred to.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A represents the building.

B is a heavy sprocket-chain, the upper end of which is secured either to the roof or to the face of the outer wall of the building at a point adjacent to the roof. This chain is designed to hang vertically from the point at which its upper end is attached to a point at or near the ground, and the lower end is secured to the wall by means of staples C, or in any other suitable manner, so as to prevent it from swinging.

The chain B is preferably placed adjacent to a vertical series of window-frames so as to render it accessible.

D is a sprocket-pulley, which is attached to the chain B by means of a heavy link of wire, which is bent over one of the horizontal links of the chain at a point above the sill of the highest window in the vertical series. The sprocket-points of the pulley B are of less length than the thickness of the chain F, so as not to project beyond the same.

E is a sprocket-pulley, which is attached to one end of a sprocket-chain F. This chain is passed over the pulley D, and extending downwardly is passed back of the pulley E.

G is a basket or other receptacle of suitable size and form to adapt it for use in removing either persons or goods from a building. This receptacle is fastened at the top and bottom to the end of the chain F, which passes over the rear of the pulley D.

In operation the free end of the chain F is carried outwardly from the building a sufficient distance from the building to prevent the engagement of the sprockets upon the pulley D with the links of the vertical chain B, when by pulling upon the chain the receptacle G may be drawn up to the level of the window at which it is desired for use. By allowing the pulley D to swing against the chain B the sprockets upon the pulley will engage the links of the chain, and the receptacle will thus be held at the desired height until it is proposed to lower it with its contents, when by again carrying the lower end of the chain F outwardly from the building the pulley D will be released from its engagement with the chain B and may be lowered to the ground.

Any suitable form of clamping device may be used in securing the receptacle G to the pulley-chain F, so that the same may be removed when desired and only attached to the chain when desired for actual use. The vertical chain B will itself serve as a very convenient and serviceable ladder for use in case of fire.

It is evident that in the construction of my fire-escape the vertical sprocket-chain B may be omitted and the hook or link which I use in attaching the sprocket-pulley D may be attached to a suitable hook or bracket provided for that purpose either upon the outer or the inner side of the window-frame. By this construction the sprocket-pulleys and

chain to which they are attached may be stored within the basket when not in use and may be readily attached to the window-frame when necessary to be used. In many instances this construction would be preferable to the use of a vertical chain secured to the outer face of the wall of the building, as in extremely cold weather in the winter season the use of the vertical chain might be interfered with by reason of the accumulation of ice and snow.

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

1. In a fire-escape, the combination, with a chain permanently secured to the outer face of a wall and extending vertically adjacent to a vertical series of windows or other openings in said wall, of a pulley secured to the upper end of the chain, a chain or its equivalent passed over the pulley and having secured to one of its ends a pulley under which the chain

is also passed, and a basket or other receptacle secured to the chain above said pulley, substantially as and for the purpose specified. 25

2. The herein-described fire-escape, the same comprising, in combination, a sprocket-chain permanently secured to and extending vertically upon the outer face of a wall, a sprocket-pulley secured to the chain, a separate sprocket-chain having a sprocket-pulley secured to one of its ends, the said chain being passed over the pulley attached to the vertical fixed chain and returned under the second pulley, and a basket or other receptacle secured to the movable chain, substantially as described, and for the purpose specified. 30 35

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

WALTER J. PRATT.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM K. COATS,
WILLARD V. REED.