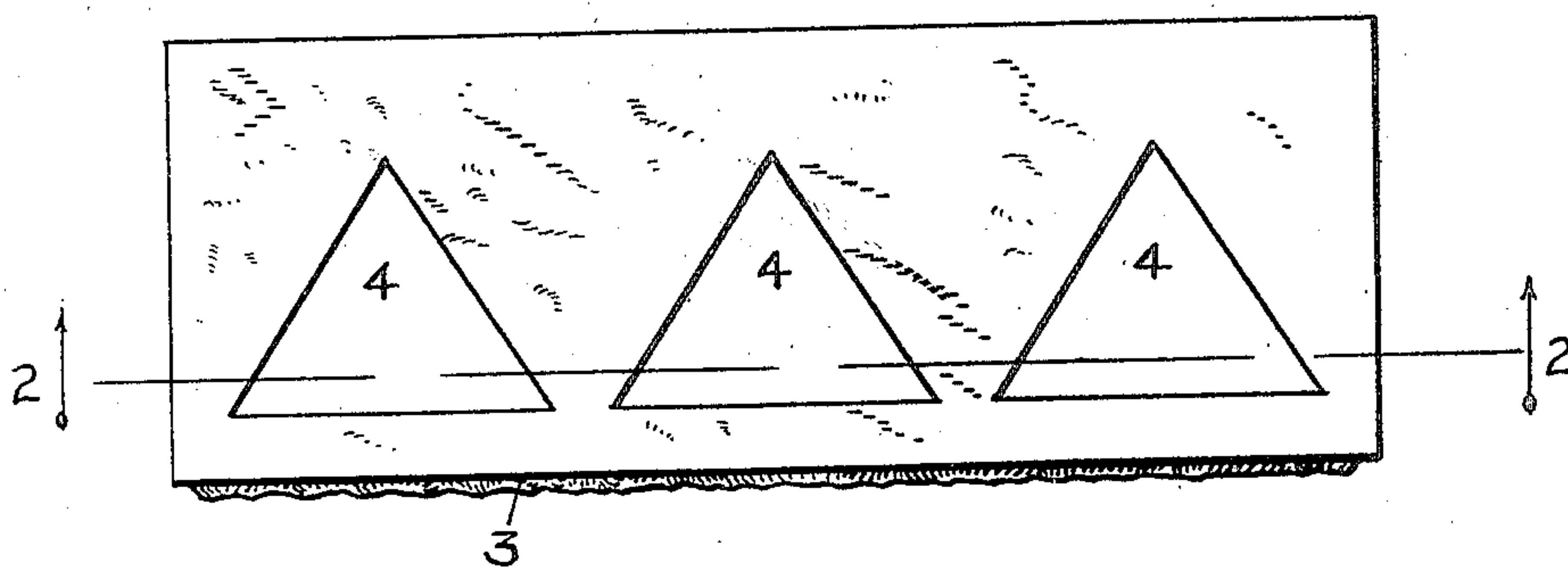


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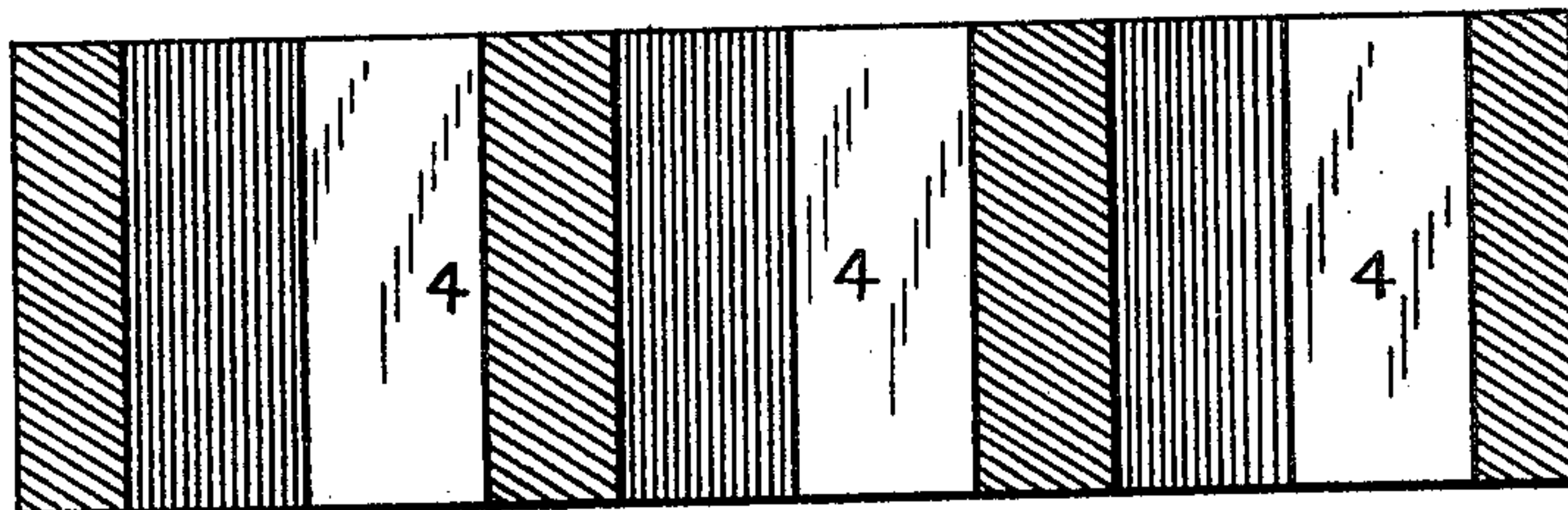
PATENTED FEB. 13, 1906.

J. A. JOHNSON.  
BUILDING BLOCK.  
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 16, 1905.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

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ATTORNEYS,

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. JOHNSON, OF WINAMAC, INDIANA.

## BUILDING-BLOCK.

No. 812,498.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 13, 1906.

Application filed March 16, 1905. Serial No. 250,457.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN A. JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Winamac, in the county of Pulaski and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Building - Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in concrete building-blocks; and the object of the invention is to provide a construction of such material that will absorb and distribute moisture applied to its outer surface in such a manner as to preserve the inner portion of the block which forms the inside wall of the building in a drier condition than heretofore obtainable.

I accomplish the objects of the invention by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a building-block constructed in accordance with my invention, and Fig. 2 is a vertical section of same on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

Like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout both views of the drawings.

3 is the front face of the concrete block, here shown as rough in construction to represent a rough rock finish. Instead of this rock finish it may be ornamented in any manner to suit the desires of the architect or those who are to use the block.

4 represents triangular - shaped openings extending vertically through the block. One side of these triangular openings is parallel with the front face of the block, while the other two sides converge toward the back face of the block. By this construction the openings will be separated from each other by concrete walls or partitions which are wedge-shaped in cross-section, increasing in width toward the back of the block, so that moisture applied to the outer surface 3 will have a much larger body to spread over in passing from the front wall of the block to the back wall than is obtained in blocks having openings which are rectangular in cross-section. Where the openings are rectangular, the walls separating said openings have parallel sides, and moisture applied to the outerface of the block is carried by absorption from the front to the rear wall of the block through these vertical partitions and is deliv-

ered to the back wall in a more concentrated form than in my construction, in which the moisture is not only distributed over the whole inner face of the inner wall, but the partitions themselves contain a larger amount of concrete, which will take up a proportionately greater amount of said moisture. The result is that a quantity of water which would pass through a concrete block having rectangular openings and show in well-defined drops on the inner face of the block would be absorbed before it had passed through a block of my construction and the inner face of my block would be dry. It will also be noted, as shown in Fig. 1, that I place my ventilating-openings nearest to the front or outer face of the block, so as to make the inside wall of the block thicker than the outside wall. Because of this the columns of air within the air-openings of the block will be warmed and dried through the thinner outside wall of the block, and the thicker inside wall will be better protected and rendered more impervious to moisture and less sensitive to changes in temperature. In addition the greater thickness of the inner wall provides the maximum strength where it is most needed for the support of joist, girders, and other load-bracing parts of a structure.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and wish to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. A building - block having vertical air-passages triangular in cross-section with a side of each passage parallel with the front face of the block, said passages being separated by walls which increase in thickness toward the back of the block.

2. A building-block of concrete or other molded material having vertical air-passages separated by walls which increase in thickness toward the back of the block, said air-passages being closer to the front than to the rear wall of the block.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 6th day of March, A. D. 1905.

JOHN A. JOHNSON. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

F. W. WOERNER,  
J. A. MINTURN.