

United States Patent [19]
Maclean et al.

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 [45] **Date of Patent:** Dec. 20, 1988

- [54] **STORAGE CONTROLLER EMULATOR PROVIDING TRANSPARENT RESOURCE SHARING IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM**
- [75] Inventors: **William M. Maclean, Milton; Edward G. Agnew, Campbellville; Richard C. Madter, Puslinch, all of Canada**
- [73] Assignee: **516277 Ontario Limited, Ontario, Canada**
- [21] Appl. No.: **556,130**
- [22] Filed: **Nov. 29, 1983**
- [51] Int. Cl.⁴ **G06F 13/12**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **364/200**
- [58] Field of Search ... **364/200 MS File, 900 MS File**

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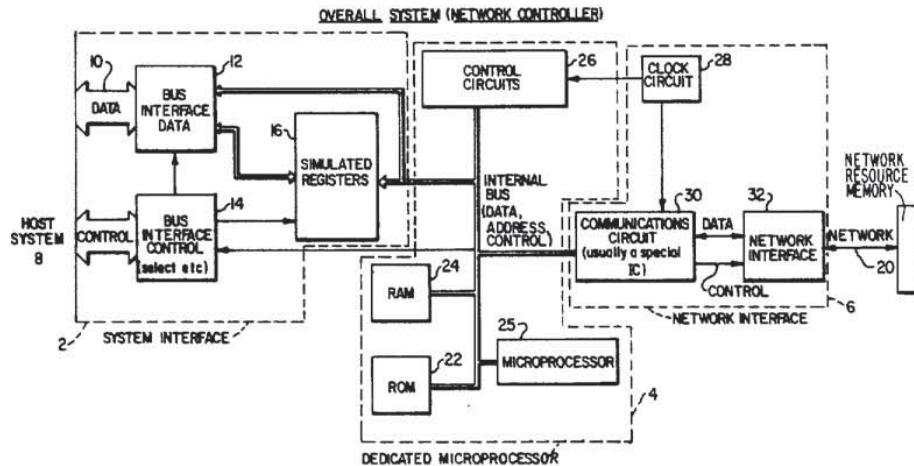
Primary Examiner—Archie E. Williams, Jr.
Assistant Examiner—Florin Munteanu
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Kenyon & Kenyon

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A microprocessor controlled mass storage controller is used as an interface for mass storage devices which are shared by a plurality of stand-alone microcomputer systems. The microprocessor controlled mass storage controller has a system interface which maintains communications with a host microcomputer; a dedicated microprocessor which maintains the internal control of the controller and a network interface which maintains an access to the external network. Data transparency and integrity are achieved through the simulation by the controller of the mass storage device characteristics and responses.

6 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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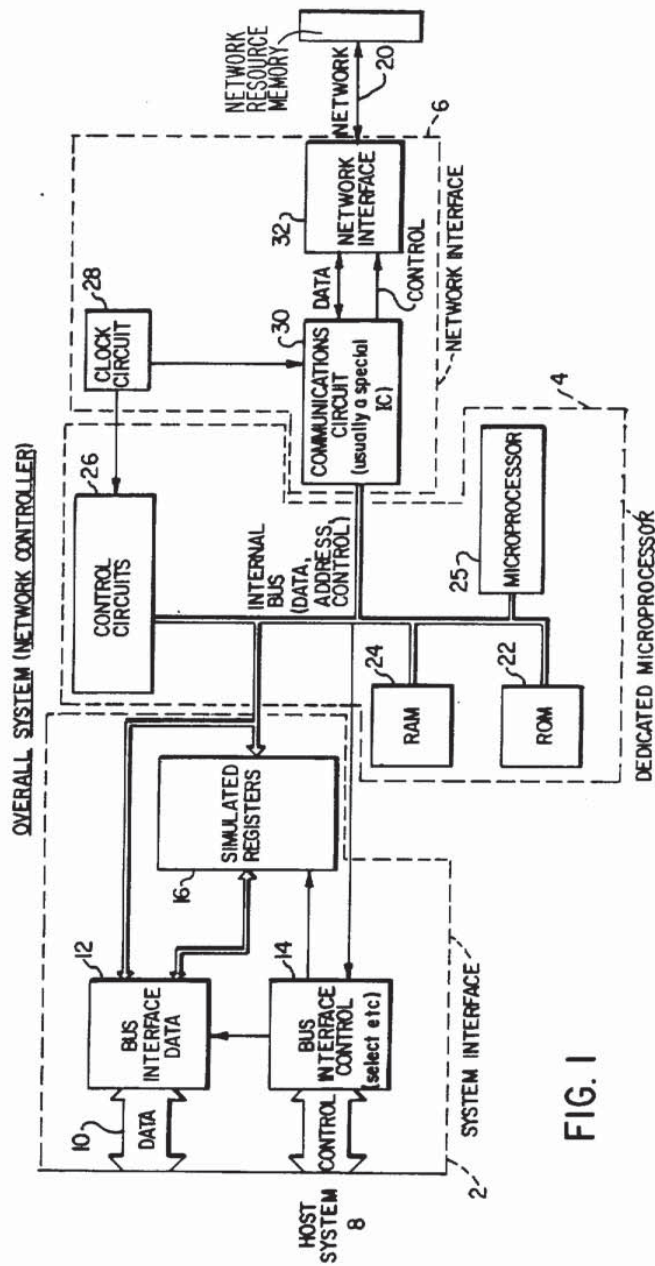
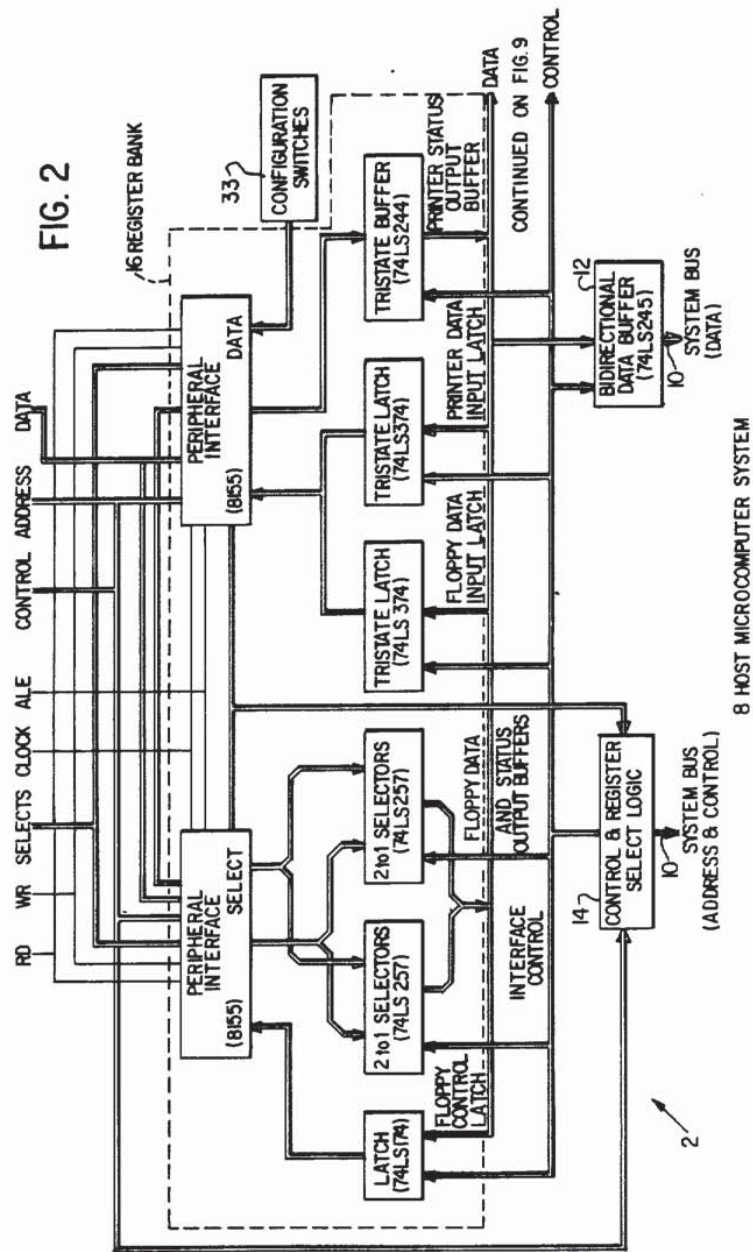


FIG. 1



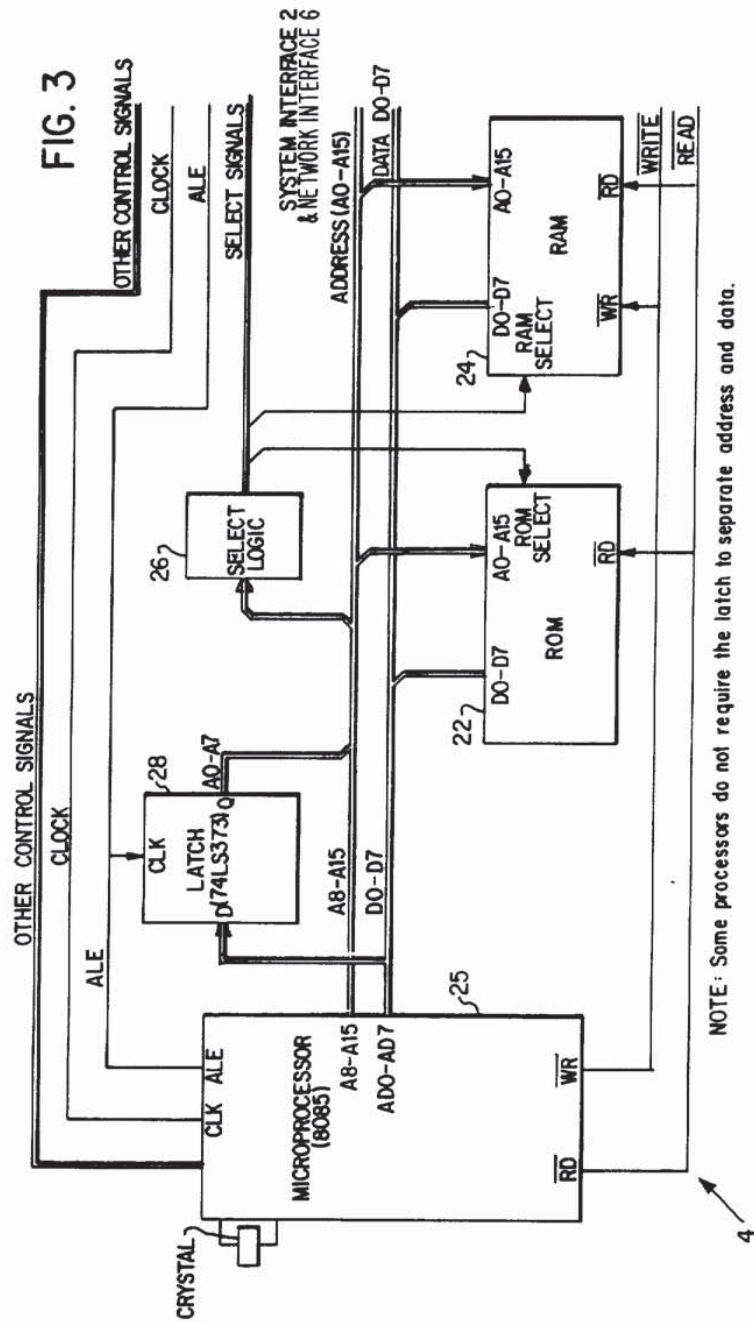
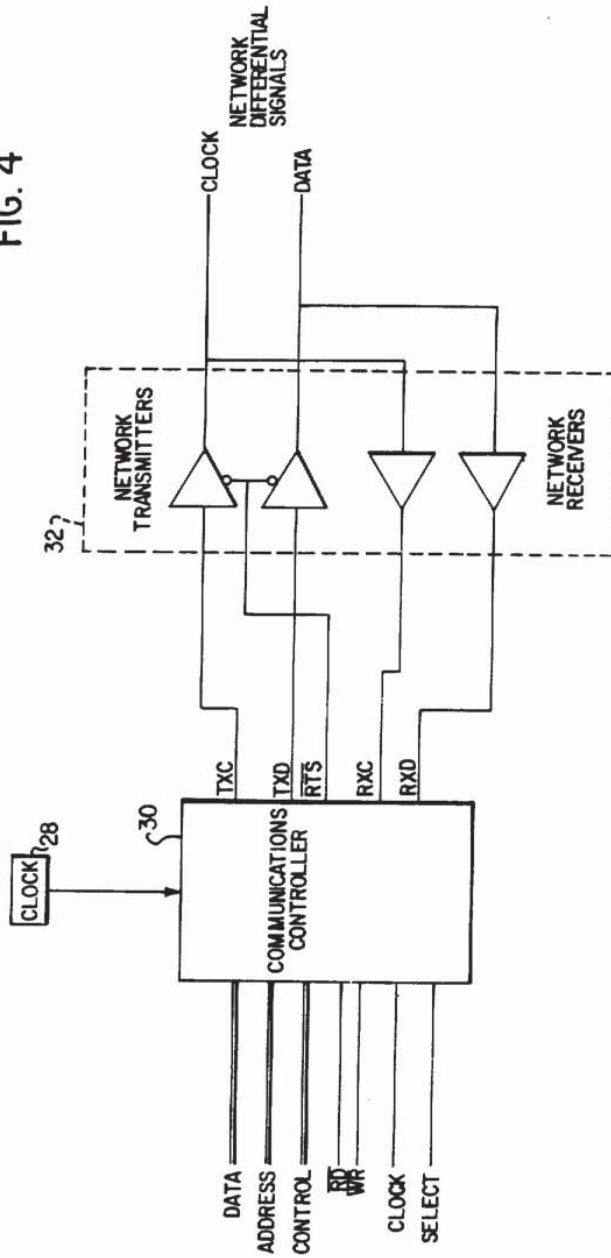


FIG. 4



NOTE: This part of the hardware is variable, and depends on the type of network being used.

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