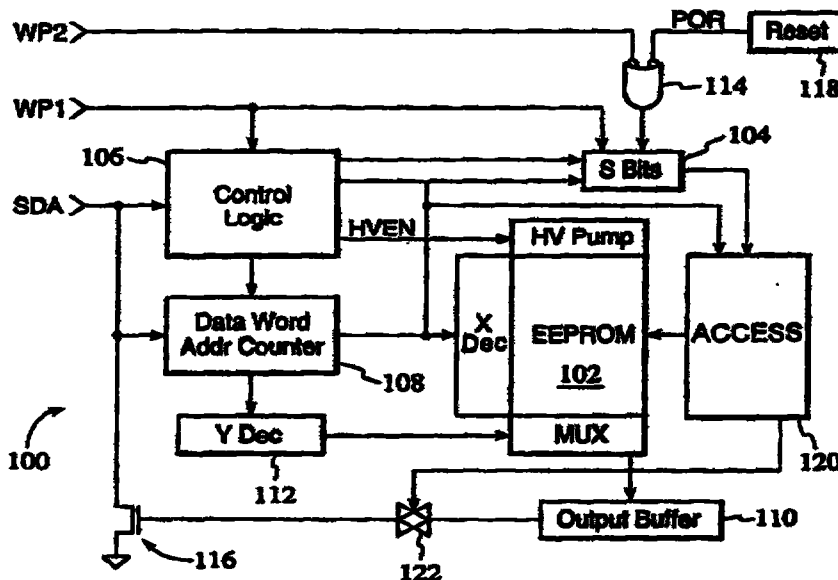


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(54) Title: PROGRAMMABLE ACCESS PROTECTION IN A FLASH MEMORY DEVICE**(57) Abstract**

A memory device (100) comprises a memory array (102) having corresponding first access control bits (202, 204) to control access thereto. A second set of access control bits (104) is provided to control write access to the first access control bits. The memory array is divided into memory blocks, each block having a corresponding access control bit. At least one such block (BLK0) is further subdivided into pages, each page having a corresponding control bit.