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[54] **WRITE PROTECTION SECURITY FOR MEMORY DEVICE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **365/218**; 365/195; 365/230.03

[58] **Field of Search** 365/218, 195, 230.03, 365/96, 189.07, 189.12

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An erasable programmable memory device has a number of contiguous data storage cells forming the data memory of the device. The address of one of these data storage cells is stored to designate it as a cell which is to be write protected so that its contents may not thereafter be erased or overwritten. Information is also stored to identify the total number of contiguous data storage cells to be similarly write protected commencing with the cell whose address is stored to designate write protection. The contents of the designated and identified cells are then made permanent. Write protection of the designated and identified cells is accomplished by comparing each write operation address with the addresses of the data storage cells encompassed within the protected area, and if it is within that area, aborting the write operation.

17 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

