Few if any traditional "Lincoln log" cabins dating back to the time of the earthquake sequence have survived. These structures were prone to rot. The earliest frontier cabins were also very modest structures ("starter homes") that were cannibalized and/or incorporated into later, larger structures. The small handful of surviving cabins from the early 19th century generally survived by virtue of having been cocooned inside later, larger structures.

Historical photographs (top left, top right) reveal log cabins constructed circa 1840. The cabin in the bottom photograph (now residing inside a barn built around it) is probably older; the age of the structure is unknown but, as was typical for the earliest frontier cabins, the structure has only a single small door and no windows.

Few if any historical accounts of the New Madrid sequence describe damage to Lincoln log cabins other than damage to chimneys. An account of the 1/23/1812 mainshock by George Heinrich Crist in Nelson County in Kentucky, near present-day Louisville, states, "We lost our Amandy Jane in this one – a log fell on her." (This is one of the very few clear, specific accounts of a fatality during the sequence.) The details of damage are not clear from this account, but a later account from Crist states that people in Pigeon Roost (southern Indiana near present-day Henryville) "felt the ground move and shake but it did not destroy cabins and trees like it did in Kentucky."