



Post-on-sill construction in Cahokia, Illinois: Holy Family church (top left) and Old Court House (top right and bottom left), house (bottom right). There are no records indicating that either of the above structures were damaged by the earthquake, and the church, which is next door to the Jarrot Mansion, which did sustain some damage, shows no evidence of damage/repair. The reconstructed Old Court House (bottom left) reveals the original construction style: mortise-and-tenon joints between posts and the wood sill were secured with wood pegs.

General account from Cahokia: “A great many houses have been badly damaged, but no one was killed. The earth opened in many places, especially about three miles from the monastery. Only sand and water came from the opening. Fortunately our poor cabins of wood and sand can withstand a great deal of shaking without much danger. Their undress logs piled one on top of another can be separated only by considerable force. Some stone and brick houses have had to be abandoned.”

McDermott, J.F., Old Cahokia, Found in: The St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, St. Louis, Missouri, 316-320, 1949.