



Fr. Benedict Roux related its effects in Kaskaskia. "In 1811, Kaskaskia underwent one of the most dreadful earthquakes ever felt by mortals - earth waves came several times this year - the steeple of the church bending like a reed, here and there stone and brick chimneys fell down, cattle themselves siezed with fear, were running to and fro. The earth cracked so deeply along one of the streets that they could never sound the bottom of this crevice." There must have been similar effects in Prairie du Rocher.

Second account:

Prairie du Rocher houses many historical buildings and artifacts — the most popular being Fort de Chartres. The fort was built in the mid-1700s and now boasts Illinois' oldest building, the Powder Magazine.

The New Madrid earthquakes of 1812 brought most of the fort to the ground. But the Powder Magazine survived, apparently by virtue of its arch-shaped roof.

Photo above: historical sketch (date unknown) of ruined fort and powder magazine.

Reference: Historical sketch is from the Fort de Chartres museum. The account of damage is local lore; the original source is unknown.