A series of earthquakes in the New Madrid seismogenic zone (NM) occurred between December 16, 1811 and February 7, 1812 in South and Southeast Missouri, Southeast Arkansas, and West Tennessee. These four earthquakes were the largest in United States history and were accompanied by phenomena that were not previously recorded. This sequence produced ground displacements of up to 9 meters (30 feet). These ground displacements were associated with three main shocks, the first on December 16, 1811, the second on January 23, 1812, and the third on February 7, 1812. These three earthquakes were the largest in the United States history. The first shock was felt by people in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and as far as Detroit, Michigan and New Orleans, Louisiana. Chimneys were knocked down as far away as New York City. The first event produced surface waves that lasted for over three minutes. The second event was felt as far as the Gulf of Mexico. The third event shook buildings in St. Louis, Missouri but did not cause any damage.

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