

prominent McDonnell family of arsenal land connections, dating back to July 6, 1809, when Archibald McDonald (McDonnell) patented government land along Indian Creek, 160 acres in Section 15 of Township 4, Range 1 West. Of course, that was not all of the McDonnell lands, as Archibald acquired more government land on August 29, 1809, and he continued to buy and sell lands through private transactions recorded in the county deeds at the courthouse. The nearby location of the McDonnell Cemetery (thought to be a slave cemetery, no markers) on the arsenal, less than half a mile to the east of the Matkin Cemetery, indicates that the families lived in close proximity. Their destinies mutually interlinked, they have another namesake landmark on the arsenal, beyond the name of a mountain, as McDonald (McDonnell) Creek flows through their old lands today.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, October 22, 2004, revised December 23, 2004