Primary Maker: Anne-Marguerite-Joséphine-Henriette Rouillé de Marigny, Baroness Hyde de Neuville
Title: The Hyde de Neuville Residence, No. 10 Rue d’Antin, in Paris
Date: 1816
Medium: Watercolor, graphite, and black ink with touches of gouache on paper, laid on blue paper
Dimensions: Sheet (irregular): 7 1/8 × 9 1/4 in. (18.1 × 23.5 cm)
Credit Line: Purchase, PECO Foundation Fund for Drawings
Object Number: 2018.21.7

Classification: DRAWINGS

Curatorial Remarks:
The Neuvilles lived here in 1816. The building complex was on the same fashionable block as the elegant townhouse where Napoleon Bonaparte and Joséphine de Beauharnais were married (1796). Henriette drew the interior garden and the façade of what appears to be the carriage house. True to her character, the baroness lavished attention on the plants and the children playing and articulated the façade, brick by brick. In her affectionate scene, the artist celebrated her happiness at being back in France. About the Artist Born in Sancerre, France into an aristocratic family, Henriette, as she preferred to be called, received an education that probably included drawing lessons. At the fall of the Bastille in 1789, she and her father fled Paris for their country house, Château de L’Estang, where she began her artistic self-education. In 1794, during the height of the French Revolution, she married the handsome and hot-headed Jean Guillaume Hyde de Neuville, an ardent royalist who became involved in conspiracies to reinstate the Bourbon monarchy. In 1800, the couple was imprisoned and forced into hiding under aliases because of his role in the “English Conspiracy.” The baron was also condemned as
an outlaw for his alleged participation in a plot to assassinate Napoleon. Fearing for her husband’s safety, the independent baroness attempted to disprove the charges. In 1805, she took her cause directly to Napoleon in a dramatic odyssey across Germany and Austria in pursuit of the French army, finally obtaining an audience with him in Vienna. Impressed with her courage, the Emperor allowed the couple to go into exile. They arrived in New York in 1807, where they stayed for seven years. During their second residency (1816–22), when her husband served as French Minister Plenipotentiary and was made a baron, they lived primarily in Washington, DC, where Henriette became an influential presence and celebrated hostess. After her return to France, the baroness seems to have retired her pen and watercolors. John Quincy Adams described her in his diary as “a woman of excellent temper, amiable disposition . . . profuse charity, yet judicious economy and sound discretion.” The building that Hyde de Neuville depicted in this watercolor--where the Paris directories record the Neuvilles living in 1816--no longer exists. It was on the same fashionable block as the elegant townhouse where Napoleon Bonaparte and Joséphine de Beauharnais were married in 1796. She drew the interior garden and the façade of what appears to be the carriage house. True to her character, the baroness lavished attention on the plants and the children playing and articulated the façade, brick by brick. In her affectionate scene, the artist celebrated her happiness at being back in France temporarily.

Physical Description:
The watercolor shows the interior garden and the façade of what appears to be the carriage house of a townhouse in an elegant section of Paris with children playing.

Inscribed: Inscribed at lower left in brown ink: "Rue D'antin."; at lower right: "avril. 1816"
Related Objects: