



**OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART**
EDUCATION DEPT

CELEBRATING THE LOUISIANA TRICENTENNIAL



Louisiana Purchase - Jackson Square, New Orleans

Jim Blanchard

MUSSON – DEGAS RESIDENCE ESPLANADE AVE., NEW ORLEANS

The Center Hall mansion was built in 1854 for Benjamin Rodriguez, an architect and developer. A building contract was signed in May or 1854 with William Belly for \$5,595. In 1869, the Musson family moved from their Garden District home on Third Street to the Mansion on Esplanade Ave.

The French Impressionist painter, Edgar Degas, visited his cousins, the Musson's, here in the residence for five months, from October 1872 thru March 1873. Degas' mother and grandmother were born in New Orleans.

In the 1920s the mansion was split in two and the left portion was moved twenty feet to the side, creating two separate residences.

Jim Blanchard 2006

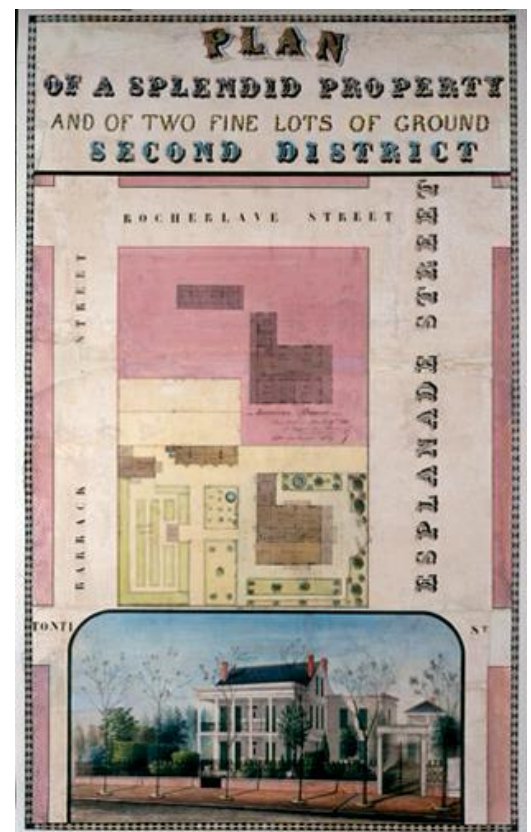
58" h x 42" w

Measured Drawing

The Tom David Collection



Edgar Degas
(1834-1917)



Left: The Degas House (split in 1920s)

Above: The 1860 Persac Rendering c. 1860
(The New Orleans Notarial Archives)





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ART ACTIVITY FOR GRADES 4+ Put yourself in the picture!

Students will need:

- Two 8x10 sheets of white cardstock
- a small or midsize photo of student's face
- colored pencils or markers
- color paper to cut and collage
- glue sticks

Using primarily watercolor and gouache, Jim Blanchard depicts these historic buildings in their original glory, often adding figures in period costume for both scale and context.

I. OBSERVE & DISCUSS

With the class, ask students to look closely at the *Louisiana Statehouse*, *Musson-Degas House*, and *Cabildo* watercolors. Prompt students:

- *How do you think this artist figures out how these buildings looked in the past?*
- *What differences do you notice about how the building looked then versus how they look now?*

II. RESEARCH & WRITING:

Ask students to research and note their findings:

- *What was happening in New Orleans in the 1800s?*
- *What type of architecture was popular?*
- *What types of clothing would people be wearing?*

III. CREATE & CONNECT

Step 1: Based on their research, have students use colored pencils and markers to draw a street scene from this time period on a piece of cardstock. What types of buildings are on their street and what materials would have been used in their construction?

Step 2: Based on what students learned about clothing during that period, have students think about what they might wear if they had lived at that time.

Step 3: On the second sheet of cardstock, have students draw a picture of what they might look like, incorporating

the photo of their face into the artwork. Students may also use other types of collage materials to embellish their clothing designs such as patterned paper, magazine clippings and fabric scraps.

Step 3: Display the two works of art side by side for a visual story-board of the time period.

III. EXPAND & EXPLAIN

Prompt Students:

- *What is one thing you'd like people to know about what you created?*

Help students connect with each other by prompting a pair-share or classroom conversation. Encourage active listening and appreciation/applause:

- *Show your piece(s) to a partner or the class.*

- *Share why you chose the colors and shapes that you used.*

- *Share what you were thinking about when you made it.*

- *Share what you like the most about the work you've created.*

Help students connect with their school community by creating an exhibition. Hanging up works of art in the classroom or common area at school is a great way to showcase creativity and start conversations about art and experiences.

Students may make museum labels on small pieces of paper to hang with their work. Labels may include:

- Artist Name
- Title of Work
- Medium (material used to make the piece)
- Date created

Connect student learning to other institutions by documenting and uploading images of their pieces to the online **Educator Resource Center**, along with any notes or suggestions on the above lesson plan at ogdenmuseum.org/erc.

Educators may also access artist information and interviews, explore and upload and store lesson plans, and create galleries of images for classroom use.