Content Overview

This is an outline of the information found on each location on the interactive map.

As students explore the map online, you will note the following color coding system:

- Modern Sites are yellow
- Sites Then and Now are green
- Poe-era sites are red

In addition, all locations include images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modern</th>
<th>Inner Harbor (Harborplace)</th>
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</table>
| **NOW:** Harborplace is a fairly recent addition to Baltimore’s landscape. Completed in 1980, Harborplace and its close relatives, the Maryland Science Center and the National Aquarium at Baltimore, have attracted millions of visitors to the city each year.

If you were wondering why Harborplace appears to be out in the harbor on the 1838 map...it's because it was! As late as 1950, the Inner Harbor was just that – the innermost dock in Baltimore Harbor for passenger, freight, and government ships. But the docks were old and rotting, so around 1970 the city tore them down. The plans for developing the shopping pavilions at Harborplace called for more space. The city did just that—using concrete and pylons to add almost 100 feet of shoreline where the rotting docks had been. The result was the Inner Harbor area – complete with shops and large pathways – that you can walk around today.

**THEN:** In Poe’s day, the Inner Harbor area was a thriving seaport. Ships were being built in nearby Fells Point. A new, lively form of transportation—called a “steamer” (a steam-powered boat)—was becoming a more and more common sight. Poe’s last trip to Baltimore in 1849 may have been on a steamer bound from Richmond (where he had been lecturing) to the Inner Harbor.
### Modern

**Bromo-Seltzer Tower**  
312-318 West Lombard St. and South Paca St.

**NOW:** You’re the inventor of a popular headache remedy living in the city of Baltimore around 1910. You have a factory on Lombard Street, a few blocks from the harbor. You want to create something memorable for the city. Of course, you also want to promote that headache remedy...

What do you do?

If you are Captain Isaac Emerson, inventor of Bromo-Seltzer, you hire a well-known architect and build a massive clock tower next to your factory.

At the time it was built, the Bromo-Seltzer tower was the tallest building in the city, standing over 289 feet tall. Ever the businessman, Captain Emerson added a few touches so that citizens and visitors wouldn't be confused about who built the tower. Instead of numbers on the clock face, the letters of Emerson’s headache cure B-R-O-M-O-S-E-L-T-Z-E-R mark the hours. And from its completion in 1911 until 1936, a 51-foot replica of a blue Bromo-Seltzer bottle revolved on top of the tower. The revolving bottle was lit by 596 lights that let people see it from 20 miles away on a clear night! The bottle had to be taken down for fear it would fall. However, the Bromo-Seltzer Tower remains one of Baltimore’s most distinctive landmarks.

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### Modern

**Oriole Park at Camden Yards/ Ravens Stadium**  
Home of the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens

**NOW:** Today, the $220 million, 68,915-seat Ravens Stadium and the $110 million, 48,262-seat Oriole Park draw thousands of sports fans to Baltimore every year. No one in Poe's time could have ever imagined that. In fact, the entire population of Baltimore City then—80,625—could have easily fit inside the two stadiums, with over 36,000 seats to spare!

But long before the stadiums and their millions of fans each year, the area known as Camden Yards was an important railroad hub for the famous Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The 1,016-foot warehouse in right field (the longest building on the East Coast) wasn’t completed until 1905.

**THEN:** Of course, in Poe’s day there were no stadiums, or even the signature warehouse. In fact, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, who constructed the warehouse, didn’t even plan to lay tracks into the area until 1852, three years after Poe’s death. In the 1830s and 40s, the home of the Orioles and Ravens was on the outskirts of the town.

Coincidentally, the Poe family does have a connection to this area. David and Elizabeth Cairnes Poe (Edgar’s grandfather and grandmother) lived on Camden Street around 1809. According to family legend, Edgar’s parents brought him to visit his Baltimore grandparents a few weeks after he was born.
**Modern City Hall**

100 N. Holliday Street

**NOW:** It’s hard to imagine a city without a city hall. But that’s just what Baltimore was for its first 79 years. Even though many people wanted a city hall before then, the first real plans didn’t take shape until 1853. After years of debates over cost and location, the cornerstone for the current site of City Hall was laid on October 18, 1867. At a bargain price of $2.27 million (other cities around the country marveled at the quality of work for its low cost), it was completed in 1875. Today, City Hall—with the same marble floors and a refinished stucco exterior—holds offices for all aspects of city government, including the mayor’s office.

**THEN:** Baltimore’s gold-domed City Hall wasn’t around when Poe walked the streets of Baltimore. The building known as “City Hall” in the 1830’s and 40’s was actually a converted museum located on Holliday Street. Most city offices (including the Mayor’s office) were spread throughout several other buildings around town.

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**Modern Johns Hopkins Hospital**

600 North Wolfe Street

**NOW:** In 1870, Johns Hopkins, a wealthy businessman, bought the old hospital grounds. His vision was to build a hospital and a university all in one. He believed two things would always endure: “A university, for there will always be youth; a hospital, for there will always be suffering.” When Hopkins died in 1873, his will left $3.5 million to create both. At the time, this was the largest amount ever donated to an institution.

Today, Johns Hopkins is one of the leading medical institutions in the world, combining leading-edge research with superior medical care. It consistently tops the lists of the best medical institutions in the U.S.

**THEN:** In Poe’s day, the site of the current Johns Hopkins Hospital was a little-used hospital in operation since before the Battle of Baltimore in 1812. Washington College Hospital, two blocks to the south, became the hospital of choice for most local patients. So it makes sense that, when Edgar Allan Poe was found at 4th Ward Polls in 1849, he was rushed to Washington College Hospital.

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**Sites Then and Now**
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<tr>
<th>THEN and Now</th>
<th>Jones Falls River / Interstate 83</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THEN:</strong> Did you know a river once ran through downtown Baltimore?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Jones Falls River empties into the harbor just west of Fells Point. Its location was one of the reasons people originally chose to settle around Baltimore. These settlers needed fresh water to wash, cook, and clean. They also needed power to make their mills work. The rushing waters of the Jones Falls fit the bill perfectly. But there was one problem: the river was prone to flooding. So throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, the city began to build walls along the banks to protect buildings and homes. In Poe’s day, the river probably looked similar to the picture you see here.</td>
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<td><strong>NOW:</strong> Today, you probably won’t be able to see the Jones Falls River unless you look very closely. The Jones Falls Expressway, or Interstate 83, and underground tunnels hide most of the river as it flows inside Baltimore city. So how did a river end up under an interstate? Baltimore’s population exploded in the 18th century. As people moved in, the city began to dump sewage into the Jones Falls River. By 1912, there was so much sewage in the river that part of it actually caught fire! Instead of cleaning up the river, though, the city decided to build a tunnel to take the river underground.</td>
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<td>In the 1950’s, Baltimore needed a spot to build an interstate spur into the city from the north. Since not many people wanted to live over the tunnel for a river still filled with sewage, I-83 was built on top of the tunneled riverbed. Millions of commuters and tourists use the highway each year. In 1976, the city finally called the Jones Falls River what it had become: a sewer. Today, some groups are trying to clean up the upper sections of the Jones Falls River.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Then and Now</th>
<th>Maryland Historical Society</th>
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<td><strong>THEN:</strong> The Maryland Historical Society was founded in 1844 by a group of Marylanders seeking to preserve the state’s unique history. About that same time, Enoch Pratt – a wealthy businessman and founder of the public library system in Baltimore – built a house a few blocks west of the Washington Monument.</td>
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<td><strong>NOW:</strong> The house stayed in the Pratt family until 1911, when it was sold to a neighbor. The neighbor, Mary Ann Keyser, was a friend of the Historical Society and allowed the Society to move all its holdings to the building.</td>
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<td>Today, the Maryland Historical Society houses over 5.4 million objects. The Pratt house has been expanded three times, and the society now features many exhibits of Baltimore’s history. They showcase everything from children’s toys throughout Maryland’s history to model ships to Francis Scott Key’s original draft of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”</td>
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<td>Follow these links to learn more about the Maryland Historical Society and its location at the Pratt house.</td>
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### Latrobe House
11 East Mulberry Street

**THEN:** The following information appears on a historic plaque outside the building:

"On an evening in October, 1833, three of Baltimore's most discerning gentlemen were gathered around a table in the back parlor of this house. Fortified with 'some old wine and some good cigars,' John Pendleton Kennedy, James H. Miller, and John H. B. Latrobe pored over manuscripts submitted in a literary contest sponsored by the *Baltimore Saturday Visitor*. Their unanimous choice for the best prose tale was 'MS. Found in a Bottle,' a curious and haunting tale of annihilation. The fifty-dollar prize was awarded to the story's unknown penniless author -- Edgar Allan Poe.

"Poe had come to Baltimore in the spring of 1831, after his dismissal from West Point. He had no money, no trade, and no reputation. The four years he spent in Baltimore were a period of intense creativity. His major effort during those years was sixteen tales he wrote for the Folio Club, an imaginary literary club of his creation. One of these sixteen tales was 'MS. Found in a Bottle'"

The prize for this story, the public recognition that it brought, and the lifelong friendship it generated between Poe and literary patron Kennedy helped to launch Poe on his brilliant career. He left Baltimore in 1835 to become editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger."

**NOW:** The Latrobe House isn’t open to visitors. It remains a private residence, but visitors walking down Mulberry Street can pick out the house by the historical plaque on the wall.

### Lexington Market
400 West Lexington Street

**THEN:** Open since 1782, Lexington Market steadily grew in the early 1800’s until it was considered one of the greatest markets the world had ever seen. Sometimes as many as 600 wagons swarmed the surrounding streets on market days to buy and sell goods. When they had money, locals like Poe and his family would travel to the market area almost every day to buy fruits, vegetables, and meats. With no refrigerators (and perhaps not even an icebox), foods had to be eaten quickly before they spoiled. The house on Amity Street is about ¾ of a mile from Lexington Market. The bustling crowds on market days (especially Saturday) brought unique peddlers, farmers, and merchants from across the countryside and across the seas to within walking distance of the Poe clan.

**NOW:** Today, Lexington Market, located near the center of downtown Baltimore, has over 140 vendors selling foods, drinks, and other merchandise. Though not the world-renowned attraction it was in the early 1800’s, the market offers an even greater array of baked goods, meats, candies, and other specialties. As part of the Baltimore revival of the past several years, the market has undergone extensive renovations. For locals and visitors alike, the market continues to draw shoppers, even after more than 200 years.
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<th>Then and Now</th>
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<td><strong>THEN:</strong></td>
<td>Ten years after George Washington’s death in 1799, a group of patriotic citizens in Baltimore asked the legislature to construct a monument in his honor. To fund the monument, the city held a lottery. Just like today, lotteries were a popular way of raising money for civic projects. For a small price, citizens could win a chance to win $50,000. That’s the equivalent to over $750,000 in today’s money! With the $100,000 raised from the lottery, the city commissioned architect Robert Mills to construct the monument. Mills, the first American-trained architect, later designed the Mall at Washington D.C.</td>
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<td>The monument was finally completed in 1829. Financial troubles caused Mills’ elaborate original plan to be cut back. The monument became a simple white marble tower capped with a humble statue of Washington. Upon seeing the massive monument and other statues under construction in 1827, President John Quincy Adams called Baltimore “The Monumental City.” The phrase stuck, and Baltimore has had the nickname ever since.</td>
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<td><strong>NOW:</strong></td>
<td>Washington Monument still stands in the middle of Charles Street, as it has for nearly 200 years. Charles Street is now one-way heading out of the city, and the circle around the statue has become more of an oblong. The streets near here still have parts of the original cobblestone from the 1800’s. The monument still welcomes people to visit the museum at its base. If you visit, you will be able to scale the spiral staircase inside the monument to get a great view of the city.</td>
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<th>Then and Now</th>
<th>Fells Point District</th>
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<td><strong>THEN:</strong></td>
<td>Fells Point is the oldest part of Baltimore City. It was settled sometime before 1763. During and after the American Revolution, it became one of the leading harbors in the country. Between 1774 and 1821, over 800 ships were constructed at the Fells Point shipyards, including the Virginia – the first ship in the Continental Navy – and the famous clipper ships. Clippers were built to be smaller and faster than the British warships they had to evade in trading with Europe, Asia, and Africa. The clippers built in Baltimore between the end of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 were the best in the world. They became so well known and admired that all ships of their kind were called “Baltimore Clippers.” When Poe lived in the city, from 1831-1835, the clipper ships made at Fells Point were becoming less popular because they couldn’t carry much cargo. A new kind of ship, the steamer, was becoming more popular.</td>
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<td>During the 1830’s and 40’s, Fells Point was the home to many sailors, captains, merchants, and traders connected to the port’s successful sea trade.</td>
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<td><strong>NOW:</strong></td>
<td>Later in the 1800’s and into the 1900’s, immigrants streamed into the area. They created a diverse neighborhood filled with shops, restaurants, and peddlers. The immigrants were mostly German and Italian, and brought with them foods and customs that stick in the neighborhood to this day. Today, parts of Fells Point have the same cobblestone streets in place since colonial times. The area is filled with lots of restaurants and pubs that reflect its diverse past.</td>
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Then and Now

Poe House
203 North Amity Street

THEN: Sometime between the end of 1832 and the beginning of 1833, Edgar Allan Poe moved with his aunt, his grandmother, and two cousins (including Virginia, his future wife). They left their house on Mechanics Row and moved across town to a small house in the western suburbs of the city – 3 Amity Street. Poe stayed here until he left Baltimore in 1835 to move to Richmond.

The house on Amity Street is a typical Baltimore townhouse. It has five rooms and a basement, and features extremely tight, steep staircases. The floors are wood except around the three fireplaces (in the parlor, kitchen, and front bedroom), where a brick lining kept the floor from catching fire. The rooms are very tiny by our standards. This is especially true of the attic room on the top floor, where Poe’s bed probably was. For example, in that top floor there was probably a bed, a desk, and a washtub. Even if the family could have afforded more furniture, there simply wasn’t room for anything else.

When they had money, the family would travel to Lexington Market, several blocks east of the house for food. However, Poe and his relatives were very poor, and were sometimes forced to beg for help from relatives around town. For water, the Poe clan would have to trek about 15-20 minutes to the west, to a small stream. The house was stiflingly hot in the summer and fairly cold in the winter.

NOW: For modern visitors, the Poe House is a museum featuring Poe’s connections with Baltimore. For more information on what the house looks like today, including an interactive look at Poe’s bedroom and some of the items in the museum, be sure to check out the 203 North Amity Street.
Poe Burial Site
Westminster Church Cemetery
509 W. Fayette St.

THEN: Edgar Allan Poe died on October 7, 1849. Even in death, he has continued to confuse and inspire the people of Baltimore. Nothing better demonstrates this than the site of Poe's Grave.

In October 1849, Poe was buried at the family plot in the Westminster Burying Grounds. Because it was a family lot and the Poe family wasn’t rich, there was no headstone. In fact, the grave wasn’t marked at all until a few years after his death. A sympathetic Church sexton placed a small sandstone block with the number 80 by Poe's grave. Relatives learned of the sad condition of the grave in 1860. They commissioned a stone carver to create a small headstone. Unfortunately, it was destroyed in a train accident, and the family was too poor to have a new one made.

Then, near the end of the Civil War, an organization of citizens decided the famous poet deserved a memorial. School children around town collected pennies for Poe's grave. A Philadelphia man donated a large sum of money. Others in the city and beyond gave what they could. With the money that was collected, the citizens purchased a white marble memorial to be placed in the graveyard. The city decided that such a memorial shouldn’t be in the back of the graveyard, where the Poe family plots were. So they dug up Poe’s remains and moved them to the front corner of the grounds, closest to Fayette Street. The monument was dedicated in 1875. Among others, John H. B. Latrobe and the famous poet Walt Whitman attended the ceremony.

NOW: Today, you can still see the white marble statue while driving down Fayette Street. The large medallion in the middle of the statue was stolen in the 1970s. It has since been restored, along with the rest of the statue. Click here to visit the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore Webpage and learn more about the final resting place of Edgar Allan Poe.
**Then and Now**

**Washington College Hospital**
*(Now Church Home and Hospital)*

*Broadway and Fairmount Ave.*

**THEN:** Poe arrived at Washington College Hospital, about half a mile from where he was found at Ryan’s 4th Ward Polls, on October 3, 1849. Though accounts of his actual condition are unclear, we are fairly certain that he was in great pain, possibly delirious, and perhaps even lapsing in and out of consciousness. We also know that he came in wearing a shabby set of clothes – not the same set he had been wearing when he departed for Baltimore days earlier. Poe’s cousin Neilson, who lived in Baltimore, tried to visit him during his stay but was turned away because Poe was “too excitable.” Edgar Allan Poe was in the hospital for five days, and died on the morning of October 7 between 3:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. The mystery of the cause of Poe’s death continues to this day.

The hospital itself has had an unusual history. Located near what was then the eastern end of town, the hospital opened in 1836. Doctors had a similar vision as that of Johns Hopkins – the hospital was to foster both good medicine and good teaching. But the school had financial troubles and acquired a reputation for using the newly buried remains from local graveyards for anatomy lessons and experiments. It closed in 1851, only two years after Poe died there.

**NOW:** An Episcopalian group decided to reopen the hospital in 1857 as the “Church Home and Infirmary.” Its ownership changed several times since then, but it continued to operate as “Church Hospital” until it closed in November 1999. The hospital was torn down, leaving only an archway and a statue to mark where it once stood. Townhouses are being built on the site of the former hospital today.

To learn more about Poe’s connection with Washington College (Church) Hospital, visit the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore’s page on Poe’s hospital connection.

**Poe-era Sites**

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<tr>
<th>Poe-era Site</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Seven Stars Tavern** | 2nd Street  
*Today, located at what would be 617 Water Street* |

**THEN:** Sometime in January, 1830, Poe accepted a challenge from John Lofland, then known as “The Milford Bard” at the Seven Stars Tavern. The story runs that Lofland claimed he could write more rhyming verse in one day than any man alive. Poe, considering himself the master of rhyme and poetry, quickly accepted the challenge. Lofland proceeded to thoroughly trounce Poe in the verse-writing contest.

How? While Poe wrote a coherent poem that had rhyming lines, Lofland mixed regular verses with made-up, nonsense words (think: Dr. Seuss). So while Poe labored over his poem to maintain structure and order, Lofland wrote the first thing that came to mind. The result: Lofland produced dozens more lines of “poetry” than Poe did. Lofland was judged the winner of the contest, and Poe was forced to pay for dinner and drinks.
THEN: Later in his career, Poe took to lecturing to make money. While a fair number of people came to hear him, he never made much money from speaking. In January 1844, about a year before his fame skyrocketed with the publication of “The Raven,” Poe visited the Odd Fellows Hall in Baltimore. He delivered a lecture on the state of American poetry. His lecture took place in the Egyptian Saloon, and admittance was 25¢ – equivalent to about $6.00 in today’s money. In his speech, Poe harshly criticized editor Rufus Griswold, who had published an “anonymous” article that bashed Poe’s work. The feud between Poe and the editor Griswold lasted even after Poe’s death. Scholars have shown that Griswold lied about Poe’s drinking and changed old letters between the two to make himself look better.

What kind of place was the Odd Fellows Hall? For that matter, what’s an “Odd Fellow?” The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is an organization like the Freemasons, Lions Club, or Knights of Columbus. They originally began in England, and, in 1819, a group founded a lodge in Baltimore. The organization built itself on a belief in “Friendship, Truth, and Love.” The hall they had built on North Gay Street was one of the most unusual in the city. It’s castle-like walls and turrets were featured on postcards and newspaper articles about Baltimore, like the picture you see here. Unfortunately, the old Odd Fellows Hall was torn down in 1890 when the group moved its national headquarters out of Baltimore. A smaller, less ornate building was constructed on the corner of Saratoga and Cathedral Streets.
THEN: Just before he went north to West Point, Poe stayed with his cousin, Mrs. Beacham, at a house on Caroline Street for a few months in 1829. The house has long since been torn down and would hardly be worth mentioning but for two facts. First, during these few months, Poe often traveled to the Baltimore Assembly Rooms and Library to read and study. During this time, the future poet probably read some of the stories and histories that shaped his future writings.

The second fact is much, much more revealing. While at the Caroline Street house, Poe wrote one of his first poems. The untitled poem (later called “Alone” by editors) was not published until 1875, well after his death. Critics have cited this as one of Poe’s most informative works – it contains the raw perspective of a 19-year-old and his uncertain place in the world:

From childhood’s hour I have not been
As others were — I have not seen
As others saw — I could not bring
My passions from a common spring —
From the same source I have not taken
My sorrow — I could not awaken
My heart to joy at the same tone —
And all I lov’d — I lov’d alone —
Then — in my childhood — in the dawn
Of a most stormy life — was drawn
From ev’ry depth of good and ill
The mystery which binds me still —
From the torrent, or the fountain —
From the red cliff of the mountain —
From the sun that ’round me roll’d
In its autumn tint of gold —
From the lightning in the sky
As it pass’d me flying by —
From the thunder, and the storm —
And the cloud that took the form
(When the rest of Heaven was blue)
Of a demon in my view — E. A. Poe
Mechanics Row, Wilks Street
Wilks St. is now Eastern Ave. – Between Exeter St. and High St.

THEN: This house, on Mechanics Row just outside Fells Point, was home to Poe's aunt (Maria Clemm), grandmother, and two cousins. When living on Caroline Street in 1829, Poe probably visited the Clemm household and his six-year-old cousin (and future wife) Virginia. When he was discharged from West Point in 1831, he returned to Baltimore and moved in with his relatives. They stayed here for two more years, until 1833. Then the entire family, including Poe, moved to 3 Amity Street on the west side of town.

Poe biographer Arthur Hobson Quinn suggests that Poe came to Baltimore in 1831 because it was the only house that was still open to him. He had a fallout with his adopted father, John Allan. The Clemms were the only other relatives to whom Poe could turn. Additionally, though, Quinn says that Poe was lured by the exciting expansion of the city. Dozens of new literary journals had begun publishing here. Poe applied to work for several of these, and began to write short stories. Some people think Poe may have worked at a brickyard during this time, just to make ends meet. There is no real proof of this, though.

Poe-era Beltzhoover’s Hotel
Southeast corner of Hanover Street and Baltimore Street

THEN: In June of 1829, after moving out of the house on Caroline Street but before leaving for West Point, Poe spent a few weeks living at Beltzhoover’s Hotel on Baltimore Street. He presumably tried to save money by living with his cousin, Edward Mosher. It turned out to be an unfortunate choice of roommates. In a letter to his adopted father, John Allan, dated June 25, 1829, Poe wrote:

I will explain the matter clearly -- ______ ________ robbed me at Beltzhoover’s Hotel while I was asleep in the same room with him of all the money I had with me (about $46) of which I recovered $10 – by searching his pockets the ensuing night, when he acknowledged the theft – I have been endeavoring in vain to obtain the balance from him – He says he has not got it & begs me not to expose him-- & for his wife’s sake I will not. I have a letter from him referring to the subject, which I will show you on arriving in Richmond.
THEN: The last days of Poe’s life remain a mystery. What we know picks up at Cornelius Ryan’s 4th Ward Polls on October 3, 1849. Around this time in Baltimore, voting could take place in a variety of places, including bars. October 3rd happened to be Election Day in Baltimore, so we assume the bar/voting poll inside a building called Gunner’s Hall was a busy place.

A man named Joseph Walker found Poe lying on the street outside the polls. Even though he was in bad shape, Poe was coherent enough to tell him whom to contact. We know this because Walker wrote this hasty note to Dr. Joseph Evans Snodgrass, a friend of the poet:

Dear Sir, -- There is a gentleman, rather the worse for wear, at Ryan’s 4th ward polls, who goes under the cognomen of Edgar A. Poe, and who appears in great distress, & he says he is acquainted with you, and I assure you, he is in need of immediate assistance, Yours, in haste, Jos. W. Walker

Dr. Snodgrass and Poe’s uncle, Henry Herring came to Gunner’s Hall. They found Poe wearing shabby clothes and presumed he was drunk. The men arranged for a carriage to take Poe to Washington College Hospital, a few blocks to the east.

Unfortunately, that’s about all historians and biographers know. How did Poe end up outside 4th Ward Polls? He had left from Richmond several days earlier, which means he could have been in Baltimore for days before he mysteriously showed up on the ground. To explore this mystery further, be sure to check out It’ll be the death of me...when you’re finished exploring the map.