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## Swan Tavern

For more than a century, Swan Tavern stood at today's 812-814 E. Broad St, upon what was then called Shockoe Hill. For most Richmonders, it was still "The Old Swan."

Built in 1781, its proprietor was John Moss, who probably served in the Revolutionary War. Thomas Jefferson also lodged there in October of 1809.

Edgar Allan Poe stayed there during his final Richmond visit in 1849. While there, he made acquaintance with the Sons of Temperance and shortly pledged himself off alcohol. Poe left his walking stick at the Swan and is now at the Poe Museum.

By the early 1900s, it eventually became the ugly swan, an eyesore, and it became home for Jake Wells' Bijou "family" vaudeville hall. No movement to protect the building as an historic site was formed.

The Valentine Museum retained one of the tavern's mantels. As of 1997, this part of Broad Street is home to the Library of Virginia.

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