The Gothic Spatialization of Fear in Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" and Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*

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Abstract

Starting with Horace Walpole's The Castle of Otranto, the first Gothic novel, the haunted house, in different forms (ruined castle, mansion, family home, abbey and so on) has functioned as a trope which problematizes issues of identity in relation to the (personal, collective or historical) past, and anxieties about the present and future. This paper compares Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" (1839) and Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables (1851) with a focus on the ways in which the two works re-articulate the Gothic convention of the haunted house.