

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 13 1986

date entered

SEP 14 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Truog, George, House

and/or common Leasure-Stein Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 230 Baltimore Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Cumberland N/A vicinity of Sixth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Allegany code 001

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Leasure-Stein Funeral Home, Inc.

street & number 230 Baltimore Avenue

city, town Cumberland N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21502

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse

street & number 30 Washington Street

city, town Cumberland state Maryland 21502

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust

Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975-1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

AL-IV-A-004

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	Original and historic functions and uses: <u>residential</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total	

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The George Truog House at 230 Baltimore Avenue in Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland, stands on the north side of the street in the block between Henderson Avenue and Decatur Street. The house is a circa 1903 brick structure, two and a half stories high with a recessed entrance with stone lancet arches, polygonal corner bay windows on the second floor, a lancet arch window on the third level, and roof cresting. The large windows have a variety of stained glass and tracery patterns. The interior is highly ornate, mosaic and Delft tile fireplace surrounds, paneled wainscoting, molded ceiling ornament, and mural paintings.

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

A recessed porch spans the full width of the south facade, behind an arcade of three Gothic arches constructed of rusticated stone with sculptural keystones. The central arch rests on paired columns; a flight of stone steps rises through this arch. The building is set back slightly from the sidewalk; a stone curb defines the line, with a decorative iron fence.

Within the recessed porch, the entrance is offset to the east, and consists of a wide door with a large oval plate-glass panel surmounted by a pointed-arch transom of beveled and engraved glass. A three-part 1/1 window flanks the entrance on the west, and a single 1/1 window lies to the north; lintels and sills are stone. The recessed wall, like the rest of the south facade above the first-story stone arcade, is constructed of yellow brick laid in common bond with fine joints of dark-colored mortar.

The second story features octagonal oriels projecting from each corner. These oriels have steeply pitched tent roofs, clad in tile, with lightning-rod finials and flaring eaves. Each facet holds a large plate-glass casement window surmounted by an elaborate transom of stained and beveled leaded glass; the area below each window is filled with a panel enriched with swags and festoons. The oriels are supported by curved brackets.

Between the oriels, a pair of plate-glass doors open onto a balcony. Each of these doors has an elaborate five-part enframing of colored, leaded glass; the east composition represents a grapevine, and the west one features a Prairie School geometric design. The two-door openings are linked by a continuous rusticated stone lintel. The balcony rests on curved brackets and has a balustrade.

In the half-story, a two-part lancet-arched window with Gothic tracery is centered in the gable peak, within a stone-arched opening. The stone arch springs from a molded brick belt course; below this belt course, on either side of the central window, a square tile with a floral motif is set within a slight recess. The slightly-projecting eave is finished with a molding, and the gable peak is capped by a finial.

The east elevation is six irregular bays wide. On the first floor, the southernmost bay is defined by a large 1/1 window with a stained-glass transom depicting four cherubs playing musical instruments. North of this window is an exterior paneled chimney with a tall corbeled stack. The next bay holds a basement entrance, with a round-arched, etched-glass casement window above it, lighting the stair landing between the first and second stories. A three-sided projecting bay occupies the third bay from the south; its central facet features a grapevine motif in colored and leaded glass. The remaining bays are defined by 1/1 sash.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Second-story windows are all 1/1 sash. A double 1/1 window lights the stair at the landing between the second and third floors; it is glazed with flashed glass, with etched scenes in the upper sash.

The roof is clad in patterned slate; scroll-sawn brackets support the deep overhanging eaves. A hipped dormer is located south of the exterior chimney; another corbeled chimney rises from the interior, just north of the gable which caps the projecting bay. All ridges have iron cresting.

The interior plan is irregular. Despite minor alterations to suit the current function of the building as a funeral parlor, the majority of the original decorative detailing remains intact.

The main entrance opens into a large foyer, focusing on the broad triple-run closed-well stair. Squat columns form the newels at the bottom of the stair; three twisted balusters per tread support the handrail; the newels at the landing between stories are square in section and paneled. Paneled wainscoting encircles the room, and similar paneling continues up the stair. The ceiling is enriched with molded beams radiating from an open octagon in the center; four small electric lights with cut-glass pendants are spaced around the octagon, and a large fluted globe is suspended from the center. The foyer is heated by a fireplace with an outstanding polychrome mosaic surround and hearth depicting juxtaposed Swiss and American shields flanked by foliated designs. The composition is framed by an elaborate mantel constructed entirely of gray veined and cream white marble; pilasters flank the opening, below a molded shelf supported by four consoles, and four columns rise from the shelf to support a frieze and cornice above a paneled overmantel. A large sash window to the right of the mantel has a painted-glass transom depicting four cherubs playing musical instruments on a flowering branch, framed by a row of colored glass beads.

Beyond the foyer is a large sitting room, lighted by a bay window featuring a grapevine motif. The ceiling has heavy molded beams framing a central mural depicting birds in flight, and has original light fixtures similar to those in the foyer. A light frame partition was inserted in 1937 to create a small lounge at the north end of this room; its insertion did not disturb the original fabric. The walls of this room are trimmed with paneled wainscoting identical to that in the foyer.

A single large room accounts for more than a third of the first-floor area; spanning the north end of the house, this room originally functioned as a ballroom, and is now used as a funeral chapel. It features tripartite lancet-arch stained-glass windows in its north and west walls; otherwise the room is finished plainly. A dropped ceiling has been installed here.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The eastern front room on the second floor features a recessed fireplace with a tiled surround which incorporates a pastoral scene in Delft tile. Above the mantel shelf is a cabinet with leaded-glass doors in a geometric design reflecting early Prairie School influence; similar glasswork frames the door opening onto the balcony from this room. The floor features elaborate parquetry, with eight-pointed stars and diamonds the principal motifs. Ceiling detailing, light fixtures, and paneling are similar to those in the foyer.

In the west front room on the second story, the balcony door is framed with a transom and sidelights with an intricate grapevine design worked in colored glass. The oriels in both front rooms have transoms comprising a variety of stained and beveled glasswork in geometric, curvilinear, and representational designs.

Other noteworthy features on the upper floors include a marble mantel in the room above the sitting room, and a pair of etched-glass windows lighting the third-story landing depicting "The Apple of Discord" (a monkey and a child on a branch, the child tasting the apple), and "Susannah at the Bath" (child bathing in a wooden tub). Architrave trim is broad and fairly plain throughout the house, typical of the period.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1903 **Builder/Architect** Wright Butler, Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: B, C  
Applicable Exceptions: none  
Significance Evaluated: local

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The George Truog House is significant for its association with George Truog, proprietor of the Maryland Glass Etching Works in Cumberland from 1893-1911. Truog's enterprise, billed as the only factory of its kind in the United States, specialized in etching and engraving designs and trade marks on glassware for advertising purposes. The George Truog House reflects this association by incorporating numerous examples of the glassmaker's art, including windows, transoms, panels, and mirrors variously etched, chipped, engraved, beveled, stained, leaded, colored and painted. The house derives architectural significance from this unique collection of decorative glass, in combination with other elements making up a richly-detailed eclectic design, the work of prominent local architect, Wright Butler.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 5.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cumberland, MD-PA-WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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6	9	2	3	6	0
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4	3	9	1	5	1	0
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B 

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C 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 5.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Assistant National Register Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date July 1986

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. M. Ash* 8-8-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for Allores Byers* 9-11-86  
Keoper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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**HISTORY AND SUPPORT:**

George Truog was born in Verona, Italy, in 1861. He was educated in art schools in Switzerland, and attended the University of Zurich. He emigrated to the United States in 1883 and worked for several glass manufacturing companies before opening his own factory, the Maryland Glass Etching Works, on North Centre Street in Cumberland in 1893. This enterprise offered decorative glassware for advertising purposes specializing in etching and engraving the logos and trade marks of brewers, distillers, and hotels on barware. Its promotional literature stated that it was the only industry of its kind in the country. Works were shipped throughout the United States, and to Mexico, Canada, South America, and the Antilles.

At the height of his business, in 1903, George Truog purchased an undistinguished late-19th-century house on East Baltimore Street and engaged prominent Cumberland architect Wright Butler to plan a thorough and lavish remodeling, the cost of which was reportedly \$40,000. Truog's improvements, recalled by the daughter of a successive owner of the property, included a ballroom complete with a pool table that converted into a sofa upholstered in tufted black leather, three servants' bedrooms on the third floor with their own fireplaces, bath, and cedar closets, and an elaborate self-contained water system. Perhaps this extravagance contributed to the financial difficulties that forced Truog to sell the house in 1909; the Maryland Glass Etching Works was dissolved shortly thereafter, in 1911.

The architectural work of Wright Butler is of major importance to the heritage and character of Cumberland. A son of one of the city's foremost furniture manufacturers, H. Kennedy Butler, Wright Butler studied architecture at the Maryland Institute of Baltimore for about three years before opening an office in Cumberland in 1891. His first major commission was the imposing Romanesque Revival Allegany County Courthouse on Prospect Square in the Washington Street area. Incredibly prolific in the number of designs he supplied in his hometown, Butler left his mark in almost every section of the city in both commercial and residential buildings. Other major works include the Masonic Temple on the site of Fort Cumberland, the present Liberty Trust Bank building on Baltimore Street, the Stein-Curl Building on North Centre Street, and the Schwarzenbach Building on Baltimore Street. Butler designed a number of fine Queen Anne style and Colonial Revival homes on Washington Street in the early twentieth century. The homes he later designed in the Mountain View-Magruder Street area on the west side of Cumberland exhibit more restraint but are representative of the less exuberant Georgian and Spanish mission styles popular in the second and third decades of this century. Butler's own home at 205 Columbia Street in the North End is an urban adaptation of the Queen Anne style to meet the restrictions of a narrow city lot, as is the Footer House at 301 Decatur Street. Butler excels in his manipulation of materials - shingle, brick, tile, slate, and stone. He was a local pioneer in using concrete block as an exposed wall surface and hollow tile walls covered with cement stucco.



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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Keller Survey of Cumberland, 1976, ms. on file at MHT.  
Leasure-Stein Funeral Home pamphlet  
"George Truog" Allegany Community College, Micro film APL, TP 858, T78  
Kevin L. Kamauf, Professional Glass Designer  
Letter, Virginia Franklin Reynolds to Ronald L. Andrews, 15 August 1982.  
Research by Faye Purdham and Mel Collins, MHT Allegany County Committee.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary description and justification: Westerly side of Baltimore Avenue, beginning at Stone marked M.B., South 37 3/4 degrees, West 41 feet, North 52 degrees, West 100 3/4 feet (to Shinbone Alley) along Alley North 43 5/6 degrees East 42 feet, South 52 1/4 degrees East 100 feet to the beginning. The nominated property comprises the single city lot upon which the resource stands.