

**Testimony of the
Historic Preservation Committee of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society
before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board
Buchanan School Plaza/Peter Bug Shoe Academy
1320 E Street, SE
Historic Landmark Case 22-14 November 17, 2022**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee in support of the designation of Buchanan School Plaza/Peter Bug Shoe Academy to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites.

I would like to focus on the contribution of John Peter Bug Matthews to the heritage of the Buchanan Plaza, continuing the Adventure Playground's purpose to improve city life, serving all residents, and teenagers in particular. In 1977, in the former snack bar building, he opened the Peter Bug Shoe Academy and community center. He has taught a generation of young people a valuable trade and life lessons on service and respect. Alumni return to pay it forward. Several years ago a Capitol Hill environmental organization approached Mr. Matthews about planting a street tree near the shoe academy. He welcomed the idea, requesting a tree, an oak for example, that would nourish wildlife, and he made the tree planting happen. Everyone looks forward to Peter Bug Day in the spring, a community celebration, and to the barbeque on most weekends.

We support designating the Buchanan School Plaza/Peter Bug Shoe Academy as a DC Landmark with a period of significance from 1968 to 1997.

Thank you for considering our comments.