

Baileysburg School
Brentsville District School #7
Colored
1882-1884

Source: "Yesterday's Schools" by Lucy Walsh Phinney

In September of 1882, responding to a petition from community parents, the Brentsville District School Board agreed to establish "a Negro School in the neighborhood of Greenwich." It was located in a rented house on land which was part of a 1000 acre plantation owned in the early 19th century by Mr. Carr Bailey. The site was at the corner of old Burwell and Edwards Roads (now Owl's Nest Road) about a mile south of the village of Greenwich. It was called the Baileysburg School and given the District designation as the #7 school.

Apparently, the Baileysburg School lasted less than two years. At the January 12, 1884 meeting of the District Board, it was ordered that "the school at Greenwich" be closed because the house had been condemned by the County. Since the Greenwich white school did not meet in a house, this reference has to be to the colored school. In September of 1887, the Board ordered that the condemned schoolhouse be sold for \$53.63 in mid-October.

Those January minutes of 1884 also speak of the opening of two new schoolhouses: one at Nokesville and the other at Greenwich. While it's possible that this latter was the Chinn School for black children, later entries in the minutes makes it appear doubtful. Perhaps the Baileysburg School found another location; perhaps the talk of a new school opening was just talk as sometimes happened. It does seem quite clear that only one school for black children existed in the Brentsville School District by 1885-86.