



Built in 1840, The Grand Hotel, Point Clear Resort & Spa is known as the "Queen of Southern Resorts". Retained by Retirement Systems of Alabama, Hutchinson, Moore & Rauch, LLC played a key role in engineering and designing a \$50 million renovation project that would bring the majestic hotel into the 21st century.

Retirement Systems of Alabama authorized HMR to design and modernize infrastructure and amenities which included:

- A new Hotel and Spa Building
- Resort-style Pool and Beach
- Restoration and Redesigned Marina Bulkhead
- New Roadway and Infrastructure Tie-in
- Drainage Utility Permitting

The project presented HMR with many challenges, such as the aging and abandoned underground utilities which complicated the design. Through innovation and precision, several changes were made to the site plan to tackle the challenges presented by the 158 year-old structure and grounds. This project allowed HMR to design systems to improve the aesthetic beauty of the historic site while enhancing and preserving the natural beauty of the scenic locale. The three year project was completed on schedule and while the hotel was fully operable.



**Client:**  
Retirement Systems of Alabama

**Constructed Value:** \$50 Million

**Project Duration:**  
September 2001 through October 2003

**HMR Services:**  
Surveying, Civil Engineering & Permitting Services



The Beach Restoration Project involved the design of a pocket beach to take advantage of a unique littoral cell. Permitting was difficult and required approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and compliance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Plan and Alabama Department of Environmental Management Regulations. HMR was determined to protect and enhance the coastal wetlands while expanding the resort's beachfront. Materials were shipped in on barges and transferred to smaller vessels in order to protect the integrity of the site. The beach restoration project was a success and the innovative design and construction has performed as designed through several hurricanes and tropical storms since its completion.