



Under Budget & Ahead of Schedule

Micropiles Replaced by Push Piers in Foundation Repair Job

St. Simons Island, Georgia

RESIDENTIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR FINALIST

The St. Mark Towers are a retirement community near St. Simons Island in Georgia. Tower 2 experienced significant differential settlement across its perimeter and interior column foundations. The initial project design called for hollow shaft micro-piles and was put out for public bidding. After a site visit, Atlas recognized that accessing the interior columns with micro-pile equipment would be nearly impossible. They then discussed resistance piers with the owner's representative and design engineer as a more competitive solution.



After reviewing bids for micro-piles, the owner paused the project due to budget concerns. The engineer subsequently contacted Atlas to explore their proposed alternative solution in greater detail. Atlas developed the concept and proposal that was ultimately accepted by the owner. The formal design was completed by Mr. Bob Turton, P.E. of Oakhurst Geotechnical Services.

Atlas successfully installed (66) 3-1/2" resistance piers at the interior column foundations and (55) 3" resistance piers along the perimeter foundations. The materials were shipped directly to the site, and a crew of six men completed the installation within 15 working days. The piers were installed to a depth of 42 feet and secured to the foundations using mostly under-footing support brackets and a few wall-mounted brackets. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.



Converting the project from micro-piles to resistance piers (or push piers) was the biggest obstacle the Atlas team faced. The power, water, and plumbing utilities within the work area were intense and services could not be interrupted. The staging area was approximately 300 feet away from the installation area.



To convert the job, professional engineering peer references from similar projects were provided to the design engineer to convince him the change would be successful. Additionally, they invited the engineer of record to an active resistance pier project in Savannah so he could witness the installation process, a paramount endeavor in convincing the top brass of the efficacy of the system. Pier placements were strategic so that utilities could remain operational throughout the project. A crew member was specifically responsible for bringing in materials through the 36" wide pedestrian door so the work area didn't get overcrowded.



Atlas Piers Installers: Chad Costello, Sachel Vance, Gavin Sarver, Hollis Myers, Demond Wallace, Carlos Ramirez, & Ben 'Diesel' Christy.



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