



# Grand Boardwalk

*- Along Mobile Bay, South of the Grand Hotel -*

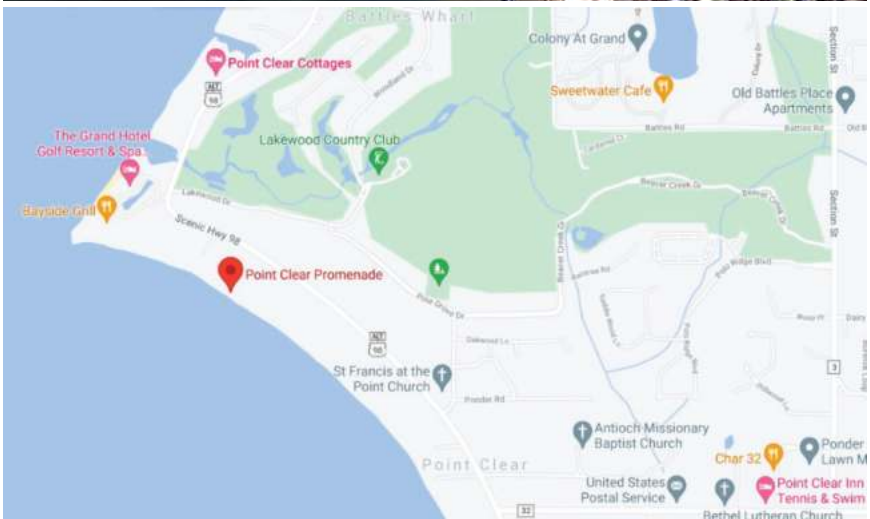


## **Point Clear Boardwalk: A byside promenade, extending from Zundel's lane north to the Grand Hotel.** *(Accessible to the public)*

View 28 homes, comprising the Point Clear Historic District (1835-1930). Many of the historic homes exhibit rain porches designed to catch cool bay breezes and provide shelter from the rain.

From as early as the 1800s, wealthy families from Mobile, New Orleans and across the United States chose to spend their summers in Point Clear. In the days of yellow fever outbreaks, Pt. Clear residents believed they were escaping to what was deemed as “good air” because of the daily breeze off Mobile Bay. Arrival to the area was traditionally by ferry boat and most people arrived in Point Clear at Zundel's Wharf (1 mile south of the Grand Hotel). Because of this, the front of the homes (sometimes referred to as cottages) face Mobile Bay and there is a boardwalk between the water and the homes leading to and from Zundel's Wharf. Remnants of the old pier at the Zundel property were still visible prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

*Aerial View of Point Clear Boardwalk*



A local custom, “Jubilee Bells” are placed in front of many boardwalk bayside homes to alert residents when a Jubilee is occurring.

This traditional wharf/pier on the Point Clear Boardwalk is part of the historic “Bestor House” property, used as the backdrop image on Jimmy Buffett’s album cover, *Coconut Telegraph*. Buffett grew up on the Alabama and Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Stretching about one mile south of the Grand Hotel, the Point Clear Boardwalk footpath varies from concrete, brick, boardwalk and sandy paths, all maintained by the individual homeowners.



## Rain-Porches of Point Clear

as noted by John Sledge, Mobile Historic Development Commission

Alabama’s Mobile Bay area is periodically lashed by hurricanes and tropical storms, receiving well over 60 inches of rainfall annually. Along the bay’s Eastern Shore, wind and rain thoroughly soak any building exterior. To deal with this problem, Eastern Shore Residents developed the rain porch: a full, extra porch that extends three to six feet beyond a recessed galerie, which shields the galerie from climatic extremes, extending the life of the decking and making it possible to sleep outside in the summer. Approximately 20 houses remain along the Eastern Shore exhibiting this unique architectural feature.



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A charming heartfelt poem is inscribed on the bench in front of the Fry House (thirteenth lot south of Grand Hotel):

*Friend there’s welcome here for thee  
Look round and all God’s glory see  
Pause and rest and think and pray  
Then go in peace upon your way*

*est. 1847*  
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