R&H Engineering

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Drilled shaft piers are designed to transfer the structural load to the substratum. The piers extend through the upper layers of poor soil and rest on a stronger load-bearing soil layer. The belled shaft (pier) consists of a straight shaft with a bell at the bottom, which rests on good bearing soil.

The advantages of using drilled shaft piers are as follows;

1. Drilled shaft piers may be constructed before grading operations are completed.
2. Because the base of a drilled shaft can be enlarged, it provides great resistance to the uplifting load.
3. Drilled shafts have high resistance to lateral loads.
4. Fewer piers can be used based on the design.
5. Field inspections of the depth and width of the drilled holes are easily accessible as are the inspections of the reinforcing steel used.

Sincerely,

Ash Hafez, P.E.