

Hope begins here.

Support Hope Atlanta and join a movement to spread hope.

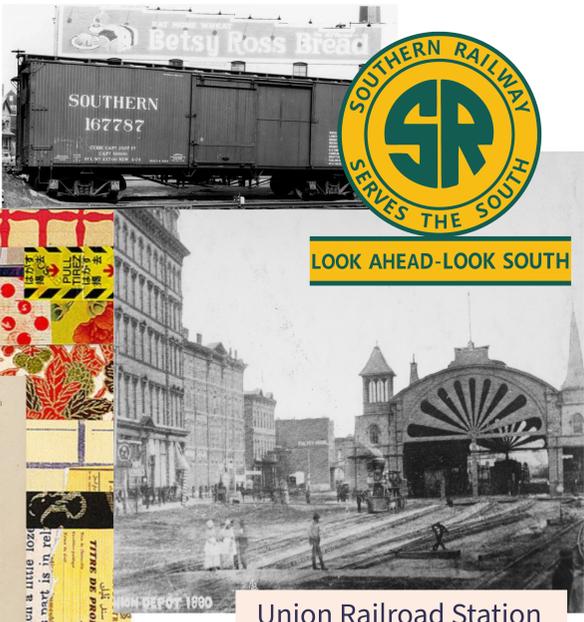
Homelessness in Atlanta has been shaped by a combination of social, economic, governmental, judicial, institutional, and environmental factors throughout history. A continuing evolution has meant that Hope Atlanta needed to be responsive to various forces and conditions. Atlanta has charted a bumpy and surprising history. With its busy train stations, crowded bus stations, crisscrossing interstates and one of the busiest airports, Atlanta attracts people seeking safety, stability and success who encounter hardships as well. Hope Atlanta has helped people navigate their own pathways over 125 years.

1900



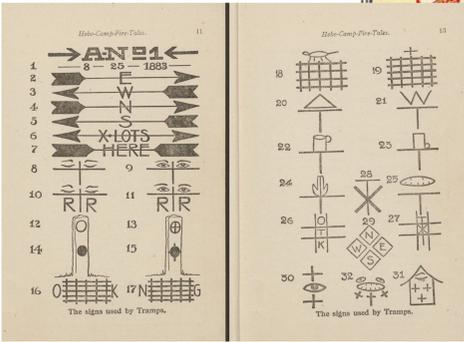
19th century secret codes identified shelter, food, work, danger.

KIND LADY LIVES HERE



LOOK AHEAD-LOOK SOUTH

Union Railroad Station



Hobos and their lives on the road were romanticized. The nation had no safety nets.

Unlike 2025 when homelessness is equated with the unavailability of affordable housing, in the early 1900s homelessness was seen through a moral lens, a situation due to the loss of an individual's character and more broadly perceived as an emerging crisis that threatened long-held beliefs of home life and community conventions, rather than on the lack of the attainability of a permanent home for hobos and tramps.

During the turn of the 20th Century, the term "homelessness" was meant to describe itinerant people, "hobos" or "tramps," traversing the country in search of work, often seasonal agricultural work.

Hope Atlanta is founded by Women in 1900.

Hope Atlanta was originally established through The Atlanta Women's Missionary Association operating as the city's Travelers Aid Society and carried through by funds raised by them. It became "so necessary and far-reaching in activity that gradually other organizations were drawn to it and cooperated with it." The City of Atlanta, Fulton County, the railroad station and the railroad company gave Hope Atlanta moral support and contributed financially, recognizing its increasing responsibilities for helping newcomers without sufficient resources in our ever-growing town.



Theodore Roosevelt



While primarily supported by women volunteering from several churches, Hope Atlanta decided to also hire staff. In response to an influx of vulnerable travelers, particularly women and children, nine Atlanta churches collaborated to form the Atlanta Women's Missionary Association. On October 1, 1900, Mrs. H.L. Stein became the first employee, assisting travelers at Union Railway Station for \$25/month.

TWO GUARDIANS OF GIRLS WHO JOURNEY ON TRAINS

