



## Historic Building Spotlight

240-242 Elm Street



Located in the heart of Ludlow's Historic Business District, 240-242 Elm is Hater's Dry Goods, which celebrated 50 years in business in 2022. Home to Hater's Dry Goods since 1972, 240-242 Elm Street has housed many businesses over the years, including Maley's Shoes, Laurel 5 and Dime, Schrage's Hardware, Pete's Restaurant, and Meet n Eat.

Jim Hater is but the latest in a long line of dry goods provisioners. In the early 1800's his great grandfather

John Hater opened a dry goods store in Cincinnati called Fairmount Bazaar. In the early 1900's, his grandfather August Hater opened Hater Bros in the West End of Cincinnati. Then, in 1939, Jim's father, Milford opened the original Hater's Dry Goods Store in Price Hill.

After working in the Price Hill store for a decade, Jim's father loaned Jim enough inventory to launch his own Hater's Dry Goods telling him, "I can't afford to hire you, but I can help you get your store started." Jim launched Ludlow's own Hater's Dry Goods, which opened its doors in 1972. In 2015, Jim's wife Margie joined the family tradition and opened Hater's Dry Goods... For the Home in the storefront adjacent (240 Elm).

The Ludlow Historic Society congratulates Hater's on 50 years in business! Hater's Dry Goods is open Tue, Wed, and Fri from 10 AM to 6 PM and Sat from 10 AM to 4 PM. (See Page 2 for detailed history of 240-242 Elm)

## Upcoming LHS Events

**Saturday, April 22, 2023**

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM • KCPL

Join LHS at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library on Saturday, April 22, 2023 as we participate in **Northern Kentucky Regional History Day!**

The Ludlow Historic Society and Museum will have displays along with other local history groups and booksellers. Numerous lectures on local history topics are featured throughout the event.

Keynote speaker from 9-9:45 will be Bob Webster, author of *A Brief History of Northern Kentucky* and *The Beverly Hills Supper Club: the Untold Story of Behind Kentucky's Worst Tragedy*.

Pre-registration fee is \$8 or \$10 at the door. To pre-register, contact Elaine.Kuhn@kentonlibrary.org or visit <https://bit.ly/2N5zpzJ>.

## A Message from the Mayor

When I made the decision to run for Mayor of Ludlow, one of the natural first steps was to begin to develop a vision of where I believed we should go and how I wanted to get there. I quickly determined that seeing Riverfront Commons through complete construction would be one of my top priorities.

Originally, Riverfront Commons was meant to be an 11.5 mile trail that connected Ludlow in the west to the river cities of Covington, Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, and Fort Thomas to the east. The project was the initiative of the Southbank Partners, a non-profit organization that partners with the river cities in an effort to build economic development. The project has since expanded, now planned to begin in Devou Park and travel to Pendrey Park in Melbourne, adding connections in Bromley and Silver Grove to the original concept. Once completed, Riverfront

Commons will provide 20 miles of an uninterrupted walking, running, and biking path between the cities. The path will serve as both a functional transportation piece as well as one of the more notable tourist pieces in Northern Kentucky. I believe that this will be particularly beneficial to Ludlow for a number of reasons.

During my tenure on council, the question would periodically arise regarding how we could do a better job of drawing folks into town who were utilizing Devou Park. Particularly, as it has been pointed out, a substantial number of hikers and bikers are often present within the expansive Devou Trails. These trails are a tremendous recreational resource but it was questioned how we could better utilize our own proximity to the trails to showcase our community. The connection of the Riverfront Commons path into the trails will make a substantial

difference in resolving this issue.

Additionally, our community has discussed how to provide the infrastructure that would allow for safer and more practical options for our citizens to take a walk or even utilize a bicycle for commuting purposes. Certainly, Riverfront Commons will accomplish those goals.

Recently, our City Council permitted me to go into a grant application with the Southbank Partners for a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant that would significantly offset costs associated with the engineering and planning that still needs to be done in all of the participating cities. While we still have a few years before this project will see completion, Riverfront Commons will be an important piece of our future and our connection with our neighbors along the river.

-Mayor Chris Wright

## One of NKY's Late Victorian Treasures

by Patrick Snadon

The late Victorian building housing Hater's Dry Goods Store is Ludlow's grandest surviving commercial structure. Most of the historic buildings on Elm Street are of one or two stories. The Hater's building is a full three stories and richly detailed. The building was built sometime between 1887 and 1893. It (and its two-story neighbor to the right, or east, No. 240) first appear on the 1894 Sanborn Insurance map of Ludlow—but not on the preceding 1886 map (for Sanborn Maps of Ludlow see the Library of Congress website). The 1894 map on which the building first appears lists its function simply as "S" for "Store". So, the building has housed a store for 130+ years. The building followed the arrival of the railroad to Ludlow in the 1870s, when the town was growing rapidly.

While the Hater's building has always hosted a store at street level, it was, in fact, a mixed-use structure, like many of its Victorian neighbors on Elm Street, its upper two floors being designed for residential occupancy. The grand scale of these upper-level apartments suggests that the store owners and their families may have occupied one of them, while railroad employees may have lived in the others.

The front facade of Hater's is handsomely organized and in very original condition. At the sidewalk, the all-important plate-glass show windows are positioned above a low "bulkhead" (like a wainscot or dado). The bulkhead contains its original wrought-iron grille work. The show windows consume the most space in the first story, for the display of merchandise. Above the show windows are smaller upper windows called transoms, sometimes operable for ventilation.

This three-part composition of

bulkheads, show windows, and transoms characterizes most commercial architecture of the late 19th-century. The main entrance, with its original wooden double doors, is deeply recessed between the show windows, resulting in more window space and creating a covered and shaded entry that draws visitors in from the sidewalk. To the right, or east, is a single wooden door (also original) that gives access to a staircase and to the two upper floors.

The openness of the mostly glazed first story is made possible by an industrially produced cast iron frame, with large iron corner posts at the outer edges of the building and smaller iron posts flanking the recessed entry. These vertical posts support a cast iron beam that floats horizontally across the open storefront below and supports the front walls of the upper stories.

The upper two stories of the building are a complete contrast to the open, skeletal character of the first story. They are of traditional masonry construction—of brick and stone that rest upon the cast iron frame below. These upper stories are highly detailed. Windows are grouped into three divisions, separated by four outset brick piers or pilasters. The

central two windows are paired while the outer two windows are single. Above the second story windows runs a continuous stone sill or header. Above this are floral panels of cast terracotta (now painted white) and above these the brick courses step forward; this detail is called corbelling. The third story windows differ only in that they are spanned by shallow, segmental arches. Another brick corbel course is above them. Finally, the building erupts at its skyline in an elaborate, industrial, pressed metal cornice with all of its original components intact. Behind this cornice, a long, shed-type roof slopes back to the rear of the building, above the brick side and rear walls that contain occasional windows.

### 💡 Did you know...?

The newspaper, *Ludlow Reporter*, began publication in May of 1874.

The Hater's building is a wonderful synthesis of late Victorian materials, forms and details. It has industrial iron, plate glass, and pressed metal, combined with the more traditional materials of stone, brick, and wood, which were worked by hand. It is one of the great, late Victorian commercial buildings of No. Kentucky.



### Community Calendar

#### City Wide

**4/15 9 AM - 12: Ludlow Clean Up Day**

Dispose of unwanted debris/items in dumpsters at Ash & Traverse St. (i.e. mattresses, furniture, tires, etc.) See [www.ludlow.org](http://www.ludlow.org) for more info.

#### Bircus Brewing Co.

**First Sundays**

Ludlow Flea 11 AM - 5 PM

**4/8 7:30 PM**

The Music of Tom Petty

#### Conserva

**4/15 6 - 7 PM**

Classical Spanish Guitar & Tapas

#### Ludlow Coffee

**First Wed, 9-10 AM**

Coffee w/ Mr. Borchers

**Third Thurs, 6-7 PM**

Coffee w/ the Mayor

#### Second Sight Spirits

**4/15 Celebrating 8 Years!**

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#### Location

478 Elm Street, Ludlow, KY

#### Hours

**Tue - Sat: 11AM-9PM**

**Sun - Mon: Closed**

**@1975burgers**

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