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AN ADVENTURE IN WELLNESS

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GOOD TIMES AT BAD HARRIET

A timely renovation brings new spirit to the historic Aspen Times building. BY LINDA HAYES



A cozy corner at Bad Harriet

For the several years the historic Victorian building beside the Hotel Jerome stood empty, its 100-year-long tenant, *The Aspen Times*, relocated to the Mother Lode space a couple of blocks away. Locals looked forward (sometimes with dread) to what might become of it.

When word spread that the Jerome's owners, Auberge Resorts Collection, intended to repurpose it into a social venue with an underground, speakeasy-style bar, and that they'd hired local Rowland+Broughton architects for the renovation, Aspenites heaved a collective sigh of relief.

"It was such an opportunity," shares R+B principal Sarah Broughton, whose firm, alongside TAL Studio, also oversaw the tasteful interior renovation of the hotel itself in 2012. "The Aspen Times is one of the few original storefront buildings left in Aspen. It needed to be highlighted."

Digging in and researching the evolution of the building from the turn of the century, and working closely with the Aspen Historic Preservation Commission, Broughton and her team first removed poorly executed additions and

installed a steel superstructure to help the building stand on its own. Original wood siding was preserved and re-detailed, its traditional blue color retained. Historic windows got an upgrade, and a sliding barn-door system was added to a courtyard-facing wall.

Downstairs, the semi-exclusive (best to make a reservation) Bad Harriet bar speaks to both the Victorian period and today's luxe design sensibilities. Like the lounge itself, several of the dozen or so cocktails are named after Harriet Macy Wheeler, the wife of the hotel's original developer and proprietor, Jerome B. Wheeler. In addition to the signature Bad Harriet cocktail, bar manager Jessie Kneitel's favorite is the Macy Valentine (Valentine was Harriet's maiden name). A blending of sherry, Ancho Reyes liqueur, Angostura bitters and Carpano Antica vermouth, with a house-made wormwood soda foam, and served over ice in a highball glass, it's sophisticated with a slightly spicy edge. Just like its namesake. hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com/dining/ 🍷

Courtesy of Bad Harriet.