

LOCAL NEWS

Table Rock cabins being

Makeover will return buildings to CCC-era appearance

By Anna Simon

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Table Rock State Park's ever-popular cabins are getting a historic facelift to restore them to their original appearance when built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Renovations to four of the 14 rustic cabins are complete, said Park Ranger Benji Bishop.

Work will start soon on a fifth cabin, Bishop said.

That would be cabin 5, a short walk from the trailheads and the nature center, and a spot that holds memories for hundreds of overnight visitors including Marion Edmonds, spokesman for the state department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Edmonds and his wife stayed in cabin 5 during their honeymoon in 1981.

"We were there in January and we had about a foot

Online

Information on cabin rentals is available online at SouthCarolinaParks.com

of snow," Edmonds recalled. "We had a fire in the fireplace. It's a wonderful place to be."

After close to 70 years of wear and tear, hardwood floors in the park cabins are worn, Bishop said. Kitchen sinks, porch screens and other details need attention and refurbishing.

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All of the work is being done to accurately reflect the time when the cabins were built, during the 1930s under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program, but with an eye on incorporating modern standards while retaining the rustic charm, Bishop said.

The department crew with expertise in historic restoration is heading the work, and a state parks historian is being consulted to

restored

ensure that even furniture replacements are era appropriate, Bishop said.

The park lodge also was recently restored to its original appearance, and now is in use for receptions, retreats, meetings and other events, said Edmonds.

"It looks just like it did when the CCC finished it. The only difference is that it has been made more accessible with handicap ramps to make it more accessible to everybody," Edmonds said.

The lodge was operated as a restaurant for many years, drawing crowd with family-style servings of fried chicken, country ham and other regional favorites. While closing of the restaurant was controversial at the time, there was a fear that a kitchen fire could damage the historic building beyond repair, Edmonds said.

The lodge is again open to the public and attracting even more visitors than when it was used as a restaurant, he said.

Old made new



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

The cabins at Table Rock State Park are undergoing renovations to restore them to their original 1930s appearance. Story, Page 2A.