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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET	Individual Property	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE 48
Name:	Urbach Cabin		
Map number:	Maps C & D #5	Photos #51 & 52	
Location:	9th Street Island Livingston		
Owner and address:	Edward Boehm P.O. Box 997 Livingston, Montana 59047		
Construction date:	c. 1889		
Style:	Folk		
Verbal boundary description:	T 2S, R 9E, Section 24, Lots 10, 11 less than 1/2 acre		
Acreage:			
U.T.M. reference:	12   534330   5054865		
Bibliography:	Oral interview, George Urbach, May, 1979. <u>Livingston Enterprise</u> , May 9, 1903.		

**Description:**

The cabin is a 1 1/2-story log structure built of hand-hewn timbers laid horizontally and chinked (apparently recently) with cement. The rectangular building (about 16' x 24') has a simple gable roof out of which projects a single, central brick chimney. It has a central door (on the long side of the house) and four-over-four sash windows on either side of the door. End notching is of the 1/2 dovetail variety. The low foundation is of undressed (or random uncoursed) fieldstone. Details, including door and window casings and soffits, are of milled lumber. At the back is a 1-story addition, covered in tar-paper, which appears relatively recent in date.

**Significance:**

This log house on Urbach Island, or 9th Street Island as the site is called today, stands in contrast to the early standardized blue-collar housing so prevalent in early Livingston. Born in Germany in 1823, August Urbach came to America in 1855, living in Minnesota before coming to Montana in 1884. Soon after his arrival in Livingston, he secured possession of the land just south of the city, in the Yellowstone River. He built the house by hand as the backcuts and broad ax marks evince. His son Ernest was married here in 1891. In 1902, Urbach sold the land. He died the following year at age 79. As late as the 1930s, families lived in the home without running water or electricity.

This structure meets the following National Register criteria:

A. The Urbach log cabin, as an artifact, demonstrates the divergent cultural patterns precipitated by the coming of the railroad. German born Urbach is representative of the large numbers of midwest German-Scandinavian immigrants that settled in the Livingston area following construction of the Minnesota based Northern Pacific railroad.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET      Individual  
                                 Property      ITEM NUMBER      PAGE 49

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C. Along with blue-collar, hip-roof houses, large cut-stone merchant homes, and small farms, this log structure provides yet another example of the diversity of housing in early Livingston. Reflective of Urbach's German cultural ties, the log house is a fine example of northern European folk technique of log construction. Its squared, tightly fitted beams and precision  $\frac{1}{2}$  dovetailed corner notching are notable. This structure is the earliest extant example of this building type in Livingston.