

## 4. James Hellwege's Freight Houses



The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad (BAR), featured on my N-scale layout, spent many of its years transporting potatoes, a primary cash crop of Maine. This required the use of many freight houses, called “potato houses,” depicted as the grey buildings in the photo, to store potatoes (shown inside the doorways) prior to being loaded onto the State of Maine cars on the adjacent house track. The “1776” BAR locomotive shown on the siding in the background was originally painted in a red, white and blue scheme by the railroad to commemorate the 1976 bicentennial. However, the paint scheme remains relevant for the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Having freight houses on a layout provides operational opportunities for the model railroader, as well as providing historical context. *James Hellwege*