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a barn that's never empty

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a barn that's never empty

ELIZABETH WILES

These walls were built around me.
They bow and split,
wood cracks in the chipped paint.

Shades of red and white
through double doors
beside troughs and stalls
but horses no longer live here.

These walls were built around me,
even before I was born.

In my mother's footsteps,
my grandfather's art.

Maybe I was built
out of these walls.

But the foundation slips
from beneath me,
mere real estate.

I have to leave
what built me.