



9-15-2016

Mother House

Laurie Patton

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Recommended Citation

Patton, Laurie (2016) "Mother House," *Westview*: Vol. 32 : Iss. 2 , Article 32.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol32/iss2/32>

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Mother House

by Laurie Patton

Even though
she is now alive,
I wonder
what kind of ghost
she will be.

I leave her house
to admire its shape
from the yard—
a beloved trapezoid,
and beyond it,
a sweet rectangular sea,
triangles of nests,
ovals of rock.

But, the photos
of that day
are gray on gray.
The ghost
is already there,
I think,
and rush
to find something
to paint in
the colors.