Fragment Found for Future Farmyard

Is this a setting from "The Martian Chronicles"

after small pox decimated the Natives

& only the humans were left to make the best of it?

Surely it's as if neon or something more ozone-related

has bleached the red from the sands,

a dustbowl perhaps, blasting landscapes

back to sea shell shades once the winds at last settled.

Drift in like Venus on that thought,

how the dunes, once excavated,

revealed the calcified parchment

of pick-ups and campers

stitched together for some practical hope;

the pioneer spirit a thing to be practiced.

Yes, though every farmyard as diorama

could be described as desolate, as barren,

nothing quite haunts with eeriness

despite the lack of any creatures living.

This is more a place where memory begins,

distilled in outlines for the filling-in,

while there's also the sense

of memories emptying out,

gone back to vestiges,

these traces each a sort of tactile map.

Is there no hand remaining

to run fingers over, covering the pleasures

of these treasures which still calls

to souls at work?

The moon was once considered a receptacle

for such lost spirits

yet they are intimated here silent and still

by shadows and light.

Their scroll is a message of mystery then,

whispering *we have gone on*

*but learn from where we were,*

*striving somehow*

*before we went.*