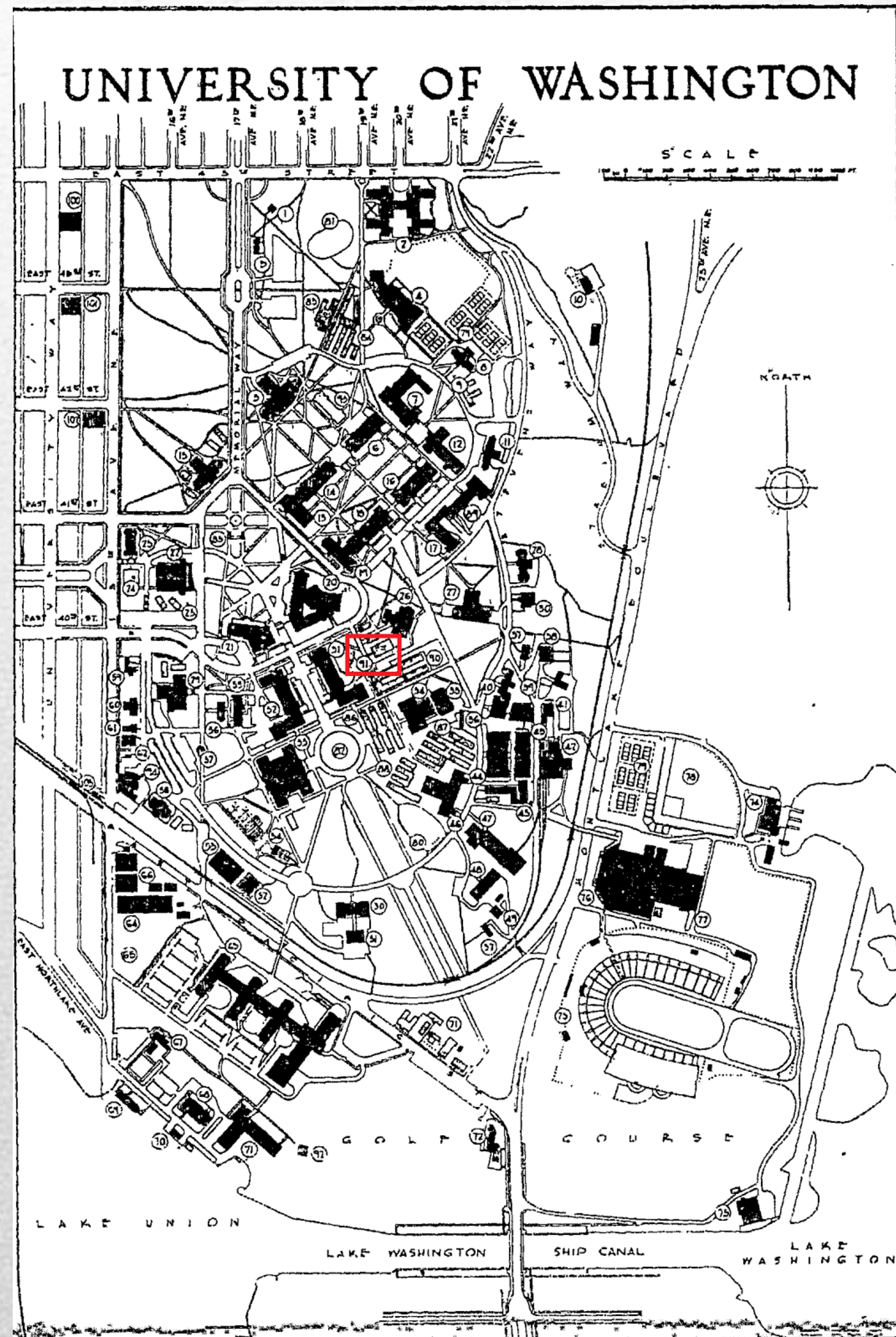
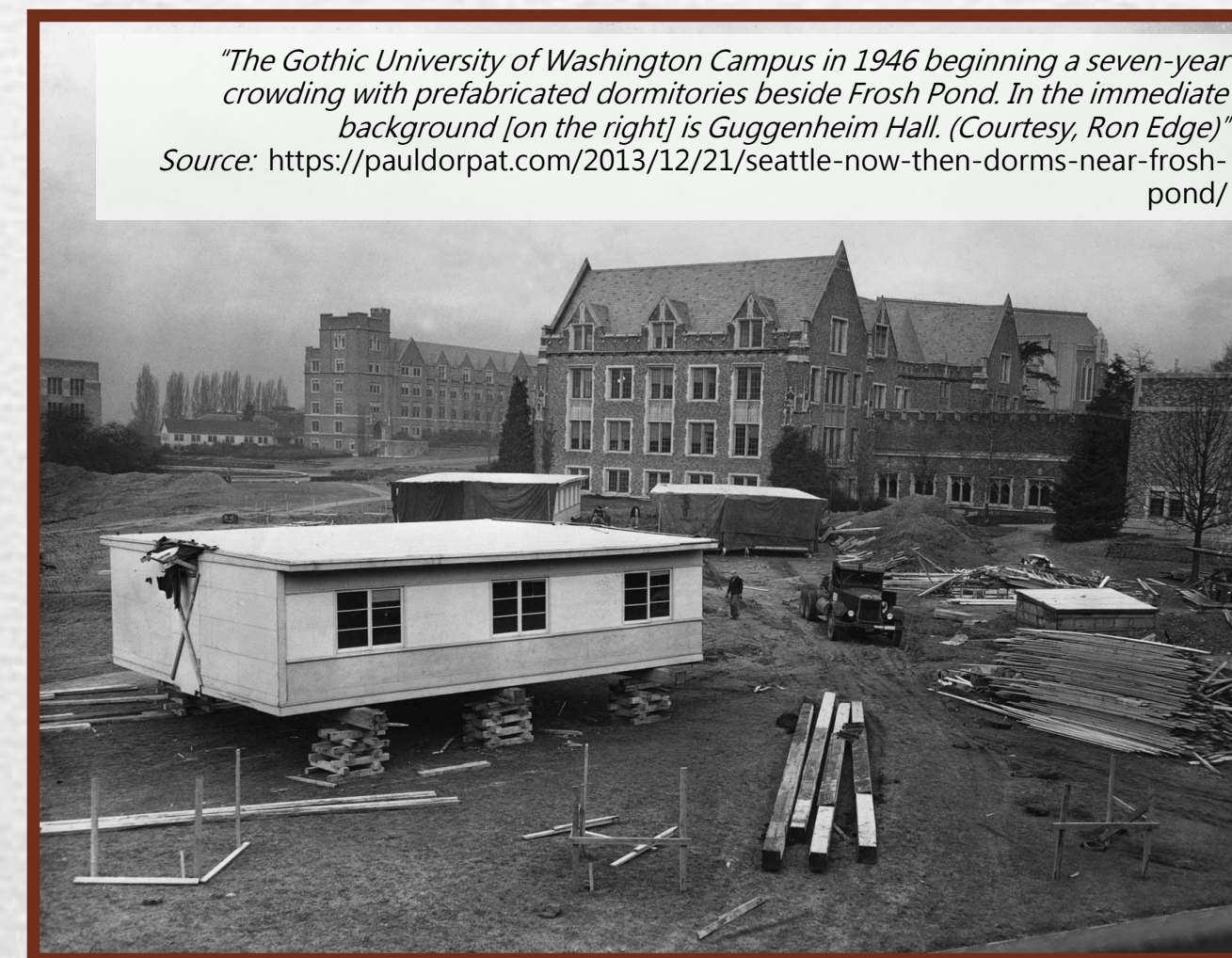




[THE SHACK] FAR EASTERN LIBRARY



#91 "Far Eastern Institute Building" (marked in red above) is presumed to be the FEL shack, based on its location and the year (1950).
Source: The University Campus Map. *Bulletin of University of Washington Catalogue* Issue 1950-1951. General Series June, 1950. No.842



"The Gothic University of Washington Campus in 1946 beginning a seven-year crowding with prefabricated dormitories beside Frosh Pond. In the immediate background [on the right] is Guggenheim Hall. (Courtesy, Ron Edge)"
Source: <https://pauldorpat.com/2013/12/21/seattle-now-then-dorms-near-frosh-pond/>

No photos have yet been uncovered of the Far Eastern Library shack; pictured here is an example of a kind of temporary building used on campus around the same time (late 1940s). We suspect that the FEL shack would have also looked something like this.



Far Eastern Library staff, including FEL curator Ruth Krader (center), outside Suzzallo, March 1949

By 1947 the *Far Eastern Library's* space in the Oriental Seminar Room and its additional ad hoc storage locations were overflowing. In November of that year the whole collection was moved to a temporary wooden building next to the main library.

This "unheated *shack*," as it was occasionally termed, was to contain nearly all of the Far Eastern Library's holdings, including a large influx of Japanese materials (the newly acquired Kerr collection) and other new acquisitions. Correspondences from this time period make it clear that this arrangement was hardly agreeable to most of the faculty and staff.

In 1948 when Dr. Helmut Wilhelm's collection of Chinese materials arrived to be housed in the library many voices complained that the danger of fire or water damage to the entire collection was unacceptable. Conditions inside the "shack" were also uncomfortable for those who studied and worked there. Professors, graduate students, and library staff endured long hours in the chill of winter and the heat of summer. For two years, however, no adequate solution could be found and their suffering continued.

