

School's £2.5m jackp

Agents acting on behalf of S Michaels, Burton Park, have confirmed that the property has been sold for well in excess of the £2.5m asking price.

Nick Sweeney, speaking on behalf of Savills who handled the sale, said: "We were delighted with the response. There were close to 20 different interested parties looking at the property.

"Although S Michaels didn't go to auction our recommended guide price of £2m-£2.5m was easily met.

"There were many different proposed uses for the property as well although I can not reveal who the successful bidder was or what they intend to use S Michaels for," he said.

Before it was sold, Chichester District Council had preliminary talks with interested parties on the viability of certain plans although no specific planning applications have been received as yet.

The private girls' school near Petworth closed last summer after 150 years after numbers attending the school had

By BEN PROCTOR

declined from 200 at its peak to an all time low of 125 in the 1980's.

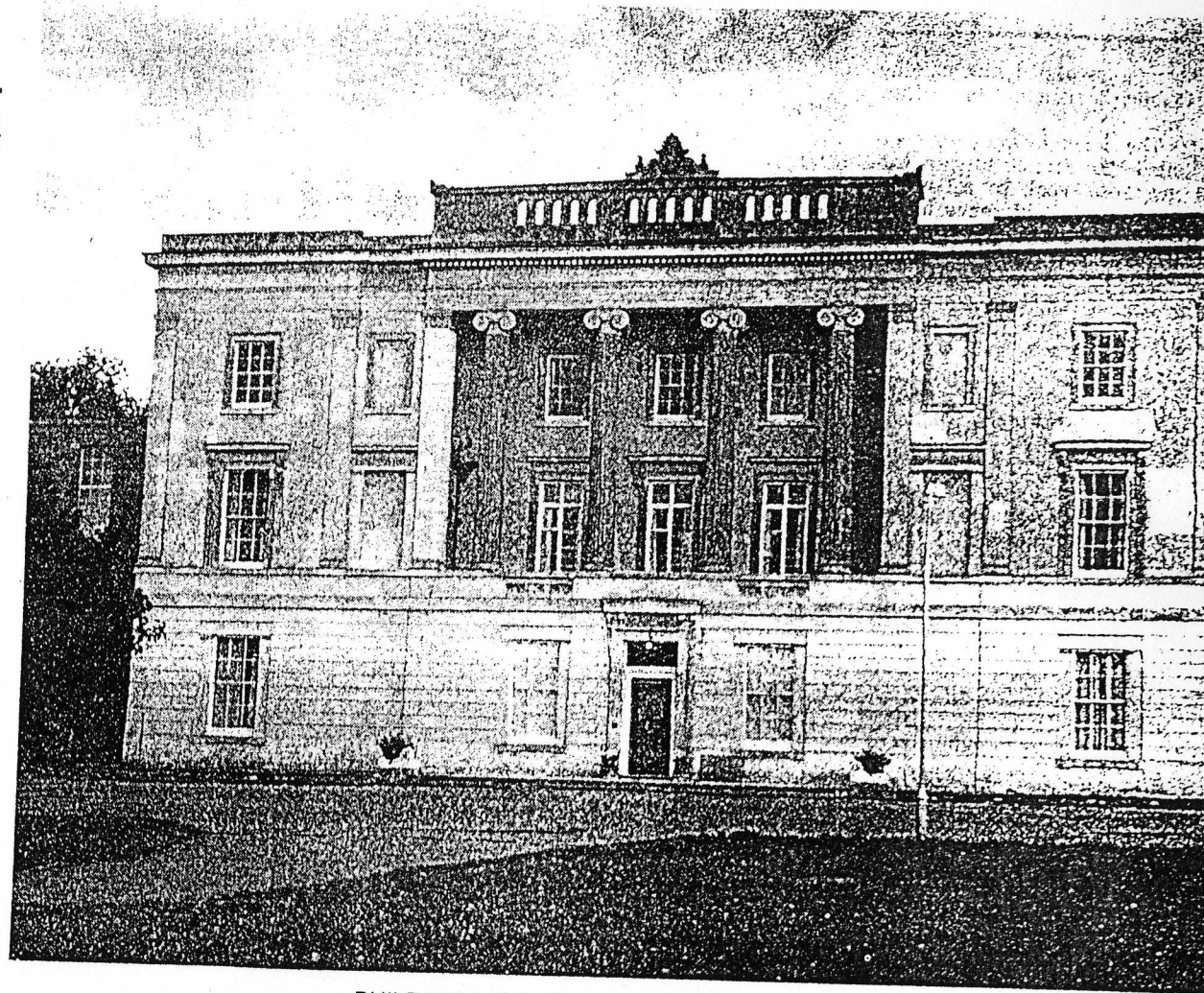
A spokesman for the Woodward Corporation, previous owners of S Michaels, said: "We are very happy with sum of money the property was sold for.

"The school was substantially in debt to us but that will be completely cleared by the sale money and there are no other outstanding debts to other parties.

"The debts caused the school to be shut and the property sold but there was money left over after all the monies owed was repaid," he said.

Options for the future of the premises have to be thought out carefully as the structure itself is a grade II listed building set in an Area of Outstanding Beauty.

The sale follows the sell off of the contents in September when 4,000 people attended two viewing days. About £170,000 was raised with 99 per cent of all items being sold.



BUILDING SOLD: The former school S Michaels, Burton Park.

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