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Croft Residential

Historic Ripon house goes up for sale

One of Ripon’s most historic houses has gone on the market, with a guide price of £1.45m.

Prospect House, on Palace Road in the city, was built around 1835 for the wealthy Kearsley family, who owned Ripon’s varnish works, specialising in paints and varnishes for the flourishing new railway industry.

The house was requisitioned during the First World War and acted as the officers mess for soldiers from the North of England, who were stationed there en route to the Somme. By the 1960s however the grand house, which is set in an acre of gardens, had fallen into disrepair and it was in this state of near dereliction that Prospect House was bought by local couple, Barrie and Elizabeth Price in 1967.

“It was in a state when we first saw it,” said Mr Price. “The staircase and some of the ceilings had collapsed, but we could see what it could become with a great deal of work.”

Forty-eight years later and the grade II listed, five-bedroomed house, still the home of the Price family, has been fully restored. “The restoration has been a gradual process,” said Mr Price. “We’ve taken things a step at a time and the house has been a pleasure and a privilege to take care of.”

Mr Price, who was Mayor of Ripon from 1980-81, still works part time at Eura Audit, the regional Yorkshire accountancy firm he established, and has seen his home city change for the better over the years.
“Ripon’s a prosperous place now, with great employment potential, lots of great shops and restaurants and an independent cinema, as well as the fantastic countryside and attractions such as Fountains Abbey on the doorstep – all in all it’s a wonderful place to live,” he said.

Toby Cockcroft, director of Croft Residential, the agency which is marketing the property, said: “Prospect House is a 19th century treasure. Mr and Mrs Price’s restoration programme has produced stunning results, and its location, in Ripon with all its amenities, yet so close to superb countryside makes it one of the best period properties on the market in North Yorkshire. We are expecting very high levels of interest from prospective buyers.”

For further details on Prospect House, contact Toby Cockcroft at www.CroftResidential.co.uk on 01904 238222