

Former Migdale Hospital goes on the market

THE former Migdale Hospital in Bonar Bridge is now on the market with a guide price of £350,000.

The 150-year-old property will cease to be a hospital on June 30 when patients and staff move into the new facility that has been built to replace it at a cost of more than £8 million.

In line with NHS procedure, the ground floor of the old building will be boarded up as soon as possible after patients and staff transfer to the new facility and perimeter fencing will be placed around the site.

The property, which is 'B' listed by Historic Scotland, will then be sold in line with NHS procedure for the disposal of any building that is surplus to requirements.

Euan MacCrimmon of Bell Ingram in Oban has been appointed as the marketing agent. He will liaise with their local office in Bonar Bridge to arrange viewings.

The building, which was originally the Sutherland Combination poorhouse, was designed by architect Andrew Maitland and was built between 1863 and 1865. The poorhouse opened on November 6, 1865.

The main building was a typical H-shaped layout.

The larger block at the front was a two-storey corridor-plan building with a central portion containing the master's



quarters. The poorhouse dining hall and chapel were located in the central range at the rear.

The two wings of the front block contained accommodation for men and boys in the north wing and women and girls in the south wing.

And, in the range of single-storey buildings at the rear of the main building were found various work and utility rooms,

including a bakehouse on the men's side and a laundry on the women's side. The grounds were cultivated as a kitchen garden.

In 1927, the name was changed to the Swordale Institution and, in 1948, it was handed over to the Northern Regional Hospital Board as part of the new NHS.

It was renamed Migdale Hospital in 1958.

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