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Factory building flops at auction

ONE of Stroud's best known buildings has failed to reach its £200,000 reserve price at auction after standing empty for eight years.

The Hill Paul Building, which towers over Stroud Railway Station, was once the favoured choice for the new town museum.

Treasures

But a campaign to attract museum bosses failed and the town's treasures are set to move to Stratford Park.

Planning permission to convert the 25,700 square foot Hill Paul building into 30 flats was awarded last year.

by Gareth Elms

Agents Frowens of Stroud put the building up for auction in London on Tuesday hoping to attract a developer to breathe new life into the imposing Victorian factory building.

But no-one would bid the £200,000 to £225,000 guide price.

Frowens' Alvin Gardiner said the vendor, who wishes to remain anonymous, would now have to make a decision whether to drop the price.

"I think this is just a sign of the times in the housing market.

"It is up to the vendor where to go from here. He

would like to sell certainly - if anyone can make a sensible offer it will be considered."

Mr Gardiner said the building was in a state of disrepair, but it was a tremendous opportunity.

Last year a group of Stroud town councillors campaigned to get the museum to Hill Paul.

Heritage

They argued that the building was more appropriate than the Mansion House in Stratford Park because it befitted Stroud's industrial heritage.

But Stroud District Council said the building would cost too much to repair.