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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Photo courtesy of Ryley Dunn)

**Brookings Central Residential Historic District
Featured by “This Old House Magazine” in
BEST OLD HOUSE NEIGHBORHOODS 2009 - MIDWEST**

By: KEITH PANDOLFI, NATALIE RODRIGUEZ, CHAEUN PARK, AND DANA SCHULTZ

“Unique, tight-knit neighborhoods are precisely what we looked for in selecting the winners of our second annual Best Old House Neighborhoods contest—places that might not be on your radar but deserve to be. Like last year, we relied on our good friends at PreservationDirectory.com to help us contact thousands of neighborhood groups, real estate agents, and preservation societies to get their takes on the best places to track down, fix up,

and fall head over heels for older homes. The Brookings Central District was selected as one of the 12 greatest places to buy an old house in the Midwest, from Indiana to Minnesota.”

The Central Residential Historic District, Brookings, South Dakota

“Located near the Big Sioux River and home to South Dakota State University, Brookings offers culture, intellectual stimulation, and small-town beauty Great Plains-style. The city's Central Residential Historic District, a lush and leafy suburb listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#), is one of its most cherished thanks to its proximity to parks and good schools, while downtown restaurants, book stores, and antiques shops are just a five-minute walk away. This is a serene and safe place to raise kids, especially since an old elementary school in the neighborhood is being converted into a children's' museum, complete with a surrounding park that will house interactive indoor and outdoor exhibits and demonstrations.

The Houses

Homes here look like fairy-tale versions of classic American architectural styles. The Craftsmans have exaggerated overhanging eaves and extra chunky millwork, while the Queen Annes are elaborately wrapped in gingerbread and include dramatic features such as turrets and sprawling wrap-around porches. Homes start out at around \$150,000 and run up to \$350,000.

Why Buy Now?

The conversion of the neighborhood's Central Elementary School into a children's museum and park will undoubtedly draw more families here. (Next year, younger children now attending Central will go to two elementary schools a few minutes away and those in fourth and fifth grade will go to the brand-new Camelot Intermediate School). Real estate values in this part of the country have suffered little during the current economic downturn. Since families tend to stay here for good, most of the houses are extremely well-maintained. Seeing as the neighborhood is on the National Register, unattractive updates and alterations of its housing stock are unlikely.”

To view the Brookings feature and other winning neighborhoods, please go to the following website: www.thisoldhouse.com.