

## Highland Park Pharmacy

3229 Knox St, Dallas, TX - (214) 521-2126

[Overview](#)[Reviews\(2\)](#)[Rate Restaurant](#)[Upload Photos](#)[Bookmark](#)[Email](#)

Posted By **Michael Stern** on 11/12/2010 12:09:00 PM

Editor

The Highland Park Pharmacy, circa. 1912, is an anomaly. Whereas this Dallas neighborhood is rich and swanky (the TV show *Dallas* did location shooting here), the drug store luncheonette endures as a relic of humbler times. Perhaps only a very well-heeled community has the luxury of letting such low gross-income real estate remain unexploited. Whatever the reason, this timeworn eatery that takes up more than one half of a working drug store continues to serve unfashionable food to fashion-conscious shoppers (all of whom, when I had lunch, were of the female persuasion). The menu posted above the counter lists grilled pimiento cheese sandwiches, hot dogs and chili dogs, chicken salad sandwiches on white or whole wheat, and a panoply of soda fountain concoctions that would have made Archie and Veronica happy. Cherry Coke, anyone? A from-scratch cherry Coke, mind you.

Nothing I ate was in the least bit extraordinary, but the ordinariness of it all was itself rather amazing. Going into the second decade of the 21st century, how many eateries in upscale locations do you know offer a choice of a peanut butter sandwich or peanut butter and jelly sandwich? A phosphate, a cooler, a freeze, a float, and a soda? A large number of ladies at tables and counter spoon into chili. It is not a formal Texas bowl of red, for it contains beans, but it is true drug store chili: thick and meaty, just a bit pepper-hot, eager to be complicated with shredded cheese and raw onions or to serve as the foundation of a Frito pie.

My chocolate soda was expertly concocted: first, chocolate syrup is squirted into a tall glass beaker; then a hard stream of soda gets jerked in, hitting the syrup hard enough that no spoon is needed to mix it; finally the whole foamy brew is topped with a couple of large scoops of vanilla ice cream. A long-handled spoon is provided; customers grab their own straws from a stash on the counter. Only after leaving town did I notice that the Highland Park Pharmacy business card boasts that it is "home of the best milk shake in Dallas." Now, there is a subject for further research.



"There is an ongoing debate between boosters in Dallas and Santa Fe, New Mexico, as to which city was the original home of the Frito pie. No doubt about the fact that Fritos were first made in Texas, by Elmer Doolin, who got the idea from a streetcorner vender selling fried tortilla strips. History aside, this drug-store version simply is a bowl of stout chili garnished with Frito chips and cheese. Chopped onions are optional."

**Michael Stern**