

= New Jersey Route 181 =

Route 181 is a 7 @. @ 47 @- @ mile (12 @. @ 02 km) state highway in Jefferson Township and Sparta Township in New Jersey . The highway begins in Jefferson Township at a cloverleaf interchange with Route 15 and Espanong Road . Route 181 serves as the local route through Woodport , serving the eastern shores of Lake Hopatcong as well as the main road through the center of Sparta . The route terminates at a jughandle with Route 15 in Sparta .

Route 181 originates as an alignment of State Highway Route 6 @- @ A through Woodport and Sparta , which became Route 15 in the 1953 state highway renumbering . In 1974 , Route 181 was designated as Route 15 was moved onto a freeway bypass of Sparta .

= = Route description = =

Route 181 begins at a cloverleaf interchange with Route 15 in Jefferson Township . Also present at the southern terminus and interchange is Espanong Road , which heads westward towards Lake Hopatcong . Route 181 runs north past several ramps of the interchange , paralleling Route 15 through Jefferson Township . The route winds northwest and reaches the eastern shores of Lake Hopatcong , where it reaches the community of Woodport .

At Woodport , Lake Hopatcong ends as Route 181 crosses the line from Morris County to Sussex County . Now in the town of Sparta , Route 181 becomes Woodport Road , winding northward back toward Route 15 . The two routes parallel northwestward and intersect with Blue Heron Drive , which connects the two roads . Once again , Route 181 turns northwest and away from Route 15 , reaching downtown Sparta . The two @- @ lane road winds northwest through the center of Sparta , reaching a junction with County Route 517 (CR 517 ; Sparta Avenue) , which connects to Route 15 once again .

After CR 517 , Route 181 runs northward out of downtown Sparta , passing the Skyview Golf Club as it approaches Route 15 once again . Becoming a two @- @ lane residential road , the highway heads into an intersection with Route 15 with a jughandle , marking the northern terminus of Route 181 .

= = History = =

Route 181 originated as an alignment of State Highway Route 6 @- @ A , a spur of State Highway Route 6 (now U.S. Route 46) from Dover to Ross Corner . The designation was assigned in 1938 , eleven years after the then @- @ current highway system in New Jersey was started . The state highway route designation remained intact for fifteen years , until January 1 , 1953 , when the routes in state of New Jersey underwent a large renumbering . Route 6 @- @ A became Route 15 , running along NJ 181 's alignment from Jefferson to Sparta . The Sparta Bypass was constructed in 1974 , and upon completion , Route 15 was taken off of the Jefferson ? Sparta alignment , which was re @- @ designated Route 181 .

= = Major intersections = =