

Assessors' Use only
Date Received
Application No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of City or Town

**APPLICATION FOR ABATEMENT OF**  **REAL PROPERTY TAX**  
 **PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX**

**FISCAL YEAR** \_\_\_\_\_  
**General Laws Chapter 59, § 59**

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION (See General Laws Chapter 59, § 60)


**Return to: Board of Assessors**  
 Must be filed with assessors not later than due date of first actual (not preliminary) tax payment for fiscal year.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete BOTH sides of application. Please print or type.

**A. TAXPAYER INFORMATION.**

Name(s) of assessed owner: _____	
Name(s) and status of applicant (if other than assessed owner) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subsequent owner (aquired title after January 1) on _____, _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator/executor.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mortgagee.
<input type="checkbox"/> Lessee.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Specify.
Mailing address _____	Telephone No. (     ) _____
No. Street _____	City/Town _____ Zip Code _____
Amounts and dates of tax payments _____	

**B. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION.** Complete using information as it appears on tax bill.

Tax bill no. _____	Assessed valuation \$ _____
Location _____ No. Street _____	
Description _____	
Real: _____	Parcel ID no. (map-block-lot) _____ Land area _____ Class _____
Personal: _____	Property type(s) _____

**C. REASON(S) ABATEMENT SOUGHT.** Check reason(s) an abatement is warranted and briefly explain why it applies. Continue explanation on attachment if necessary.

<input type="checkbox"/> Overvaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect usage classification
<input type="checkbox"/> Disproportionate assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Specify.
Applicant's opinion of: Value \$ _____	Class _____
Explanation _____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	

FILING THIS FORM DOES NOT STAY THE COLLECTION OF YOUR TAXES. TO AVOID LOSS OF APPEAL RIGHTS OR ADDITION OF INTEREST AND OTHER COLLECTION CHARGES, THE TAX SHOULD BE PAID AS ASSESSED.

DEAR TAXPAYER:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 59, SECTION 61A THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS REQUEST THAT YOU COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED PROPERTY VERIFICATION FORM SO THAT THE PROPERTY RECORD CARD MAY BE REVIEWED FOR ANY INACCURACIES THAT MAY AFFECT THE VALUE.

1. HOUSE STYLE \_\_\_\_\_ (CAPE-RANCH-GARRISON-COLONIAL-OTHER)  
NUMBER OF STORIES \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF APTS. \_\_\_\_\_  
EXTERIOR: WOOD \_\_\_\_\_ BRICK \_\_\_\_\_ STONE \_\_\_\_\_ VINYL \_\_\_\_\_ ALUM \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE OF HOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_
2. HAS THE PROPERTY BEEN REMODELED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS? \_\_\_\_\_ IF YES, BRIEFLY EXPLAIN:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF ROOMS (EXCLUSIVE OF BATHROOMS) \_\_\_\_\_
4. NUMBER OF BATHROOMS #FULL \_\_\_\_\_ # HALF BATHS \_\_\_\_\_
5. NUMBER OF BEDROOMS \_\_\_\_\_
6. DOES THE PROPERTY HAVE A FULL BASEMENT? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO
7. HOW MUCH OF THE BASEMENT IS FINISHED? \_\_\_\_\_% LIVNG AREA \_\_\_\_\_% REC ROOM \_\_\_\_\_% OTHER
8. IS THERE A WALK UP ATTIC? \_\_\_\_ IF YES, IS ANY OF THE ATTIC FINISHED LIVING SPACE \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_% FINISHED
9. NUMBER OF FIREPLACES: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF HEARTHES PER FIREPLACE: \_\_\_\_\_
10. HEAT: TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ FUEL \_\_\_\_\_ CENTRAL AIR: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO
11. GARAGE: ATTACHED \_\_\_\_\_ DETACHED \_\_\_\_\_ UNDER \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE \_\_\_\_\_
12. BREEZEWAY: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE BARN: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE CARPORT: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE SHED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE  
PORCH: ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE SCREENED \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE OPEN \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE  
DECK: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE MATERIAL: WOOD: \_\_\_\_\_ VINYL: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPOSITE: \_\_\_\_\_
13. POOL: ABOVE GROUND \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE IN-GROUND \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE
14. DOES YOUR LOT HAVE ANY FACTORS WHICH YOU FEEL AFFECT ITS VALUE? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. A. DATE OF PURCHASE: \_\_\_\_\_ SALE PRICE: \_\_\_\_\_  
B. AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE DID ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY? (check one) YES NO  
1. BUYING FROM A RELATIVE \_\_\_\_\_  
2. BUYING A PROPERTY WHICH WAS ON THE MARKET FOR MORE THAN 9 MONTHS \_\_\_\_\_  
3. BUYING A PROPERTY WHERE THE SELLER TOOK BACK A MORTGAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
4. FORECLOSURE OR PROPERTY BOUGHT AT AUCTION  
IF YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. WERE THERE ANY OTHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH AFFECTED THE PRICE? \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW:

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OVERVALUATION CLAIMS ARE BASED ON 1 OF 2 REASONS

- A. OVERVALUATION BASED ON SALES MARKET ACTIVITIES.
- B. OVERVALUATION BASED ON ASSESSED VALUES OF SIMILAR PROPERTIES.

**DIRECTIONS:** If you believe that your property is overvalued, it is **your responsibility** to provide comparable data to substantiate your claim. Provide the data for homes that sold in calendar year 2016 that are comparable to your property **or** provide similar properties compared by assessed value. To find the required data for each property, please visit the Assessor's Office or our website @ [www.town.oxford.ma.us](http://www.town.oxford.ma.us). Once on the Town website, click on Assessor under Town Departments. Under "Additional Links" select the first option, Property Information Search. On the next screen, select Information Search (in the middle of the page). Information can be searched by owner, address or property ID#. A computer is also available to the public outside of the Assessor's Office. Should you need assistance navigating the website or filling out the abatement application, please call the Assessor's Office @ 508-987-6038

ADDRESS	COMPARABLE #1	COMPARABLE #2	COMPARABLE #3	COMPARABLE #4	COMPARABLE #5
SALE PRICE					
SALE DATE					
STYLE					
LOT SIZE					
YEAR BUILT					
TOTAL ROOMS					
BATHS (FULL & ½)					
GROSS LVG AREA					
BASEMENT FINISH					
GARAGE					
CENTRAL AIR					
FIREPLACE					
PORCHES/DECK					
POOL					
OTHER AMENITIES					

**GROSS LIVING AREA IS THE SQUARE FOOT AREA OF A BUILDING, NOT INCLUDING ANY BASEMENT FINISH**

**D. SIGNATURES.**

Subscribed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Under penalties of perjury.  
 Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
 If not an individual, signature of authorized officer \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (print or type) Name Address Telephone  
 If signed by agent, attach copy of written authorization to sign on behalf of taxpayer.

**TAXPAYER INFORMATION ABOUT ABATEMENT PROCEDURE**

**REASONS FOR AN ABATEMENT.** An abatement is a reduction in the tax assessed on your property for the fiscal year. To dispute your valuation or assessment or to correct any other billing problem or error that caused your tax bill to be higher than it should be, you must apply for an abatement.

You may apply for an abatement if your property is: 1) overvalued (assessed value is more than fair cash value on January 1 for any reason, including clerical and data processing errors or assessment of property that is non-existent or not taxable to you), 2) disproportionately assessed in comparison with other properties, 3) classified incorrectly as residential, open space, commercial or industrial real property, or 4) partially or fully exempt.

**WHO MAY FILE AN APPLICATION.** You may file an application if you are:

- the assessed or subsequent (acquiring title after January 1) owner of the property,
- the personal representative of the assessed owner's estate or personal representative or trustee under the assessed owner's will,
- a tenant paying rent who is obligated to pay more than one-half of the tax,
- a person owning or having an interest or possession of the property, or
- a mortgagee if the assessed owner has not applied.

In some cases, you must pay all or a portion of the tax before you can file.

**WHEN AND WHERE APPLICATION MUST BE FILED.** Your application must be filed with the assessors on or before the date the first installment payment of the actual tax bill mailed for the fiscal year is due, unless you are a mortgagee. If so, your application must be filed during the last 10 days of the abatement application period. Actual tax bills are those issued after the tax rate is set. Applications filed for omitted, revised or reassessed taxes must be filed within 3 months of the date the bill for those taxes was mailed. THESE DEADLINES CANNOT BE EXTENDED OR WAIVED BY THE ASSESSORS FOR ANY REASON. IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT TIMELY FILED, YOU LOSE ALL RIGHTS TO AN ABATEMENT AND THE ASSESSORS CANNOT BY LAW GRANT YOU ONE. TO BE TIMELY FILED, YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE (1) RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSORS ON OR BEFORE THE FILING DEADLINE OR (2) MAILED BY UNITED STATES MAIL, FIRST CLASS POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE PROPER ADDRESS OF THE ASSESSORS ON OR BEFORE THE FILING DEADLINE AS SHOWN BY A POSTMARK MADE BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

**PAYMENT OF TAX.** Filing an application does not stay the collection of your taxes. In some cases, you must pay all preliminary and actual installments of the tax when due to appeal the assessors' disposition of your application. Failure to pay the tax assessed when due may also subject you to interest charges and collection action. To avoid any loss of rights or additional charges, you should pay the tax as assessed. If an abatement is granted and you have already paid the entire year's tax as abated, you will receive a refund of any overpayment.

**ASSESSORS DISPOSITION.** Upon applying for an abatement, you may be asked to provide the assessors with written information about the property and permit them to inspect it. Failure to provide the information or permit an inspection within 30 days of the request may result in the loss of your appeal rights.

The assessors have 3 months from the date your application is filed to act on it unless you agree in writing before that period expires to extend it for a specific time. If the assessors do not act on your application within the original or extended period, it is deemed denied. You will be notified in writing whether an abatement has been granted or denied.

**APPEAL.** You may appeal the disposition of your application to the Appellate Tax Board, or if applicable, the County Commissioners. The appeal must be filed within 3 months of the date the assessors acted on your application, or the date your application was deemed denied, whichever is applicable. The disposition notice will provide you with further information about the appeal procedure and deadline.

**DISPOSITION OF APPLICATION (ASSESSORS' USE ONLY)**

Ch. 59, § 61A return	GRANTED <input type="checkbox"/>	Assessed value	_____
Date sent _____	DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	Abated value	_____
Date returned _____	DEEMED DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	Adjusted value	_____
On-site inspection		Assessed tax	_____
Date _____		Abated tax	_____
By _____	Date voted/Deemed denied _____	Adjusted tax	_____
	Certificate No. _____		
	Date Cert./Notice sent _____		Board of Assessors
Data changed _____	Appeal _____		_____
	Date filed _____		_____
Valuation _____	Decision _____		_____
	Settlement _____	Date: _____	