

TAX ABATEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE IN CARE OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR

City of Burlington, Vermont

City Hall, Room 17, 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401 WEBSITE: www.burlingtonvt.gov/assessor

Voice (802) 865-7114 Fax (802) 865-7116

9/11/2013

Clare and Joseph S. Wool 153 Summit St. Burlington, VT 05401

RE:

The Committee of the Board of Tax Abatement will make the following recommendation to the full Board of Tax Abatement regarding your request for abatement of penalties, interest and / or taxes.

PARCEL ID:

050-2-052-000

LOCATION:

153 Summit Street

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

\$408.51

AMOUNT RECOMMENDED FOR ABATEMENT: \$0

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION: Deny the request, penalty was deemed legal.

MOTION MADE:

Hartnett motion to deny request. Brennan 2nd the motion. Mason recused

himself.

COMMITTEE'S REASONS:

The Committee does not feel there is sufficient evidence to prove a

timely payment made on 3/27/2013.

Dear Clare and Joseph S. Wool,

The Board of Tax Abatement will make a final decision on your request for tax abatement on **Monday**, **October 7**, **2013**. The Board typically bases their decision on the committee's recommendation from the meetings held on September 4, 2013. You have the right to testify before the Board of Tax Abatement. The hearing will be held at **Contois Auditorium in Burlington City Hall**, during the City Council meeting.

The City Council meeting begins at 7:00 P.M.

If you are planning on attending this meeting, please contact Lori Olberg at 802-865-7136.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Nosek, Associate Assessor For the Tax Abatement Committee

HECEIVED JUL 3 1 2013

TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST FORME BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Please submit one form per property tax abatement request SORS OF THE Additional copies of this form can be found at www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/PropertyTax/Abatement
Submit to: Attention: Lori, Burlington City Hall, 2nd Floor—Room 20, 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Date of this Request: $\frac{7}{24}$ $\frac{13}{13}$
Name, Property Owner on Grand List: <u>Clave and Joseph S Wool</u>
Name, Applicant: Name, Applicant: (Describe the relationship of applicant to listed owner if the applicant is not the listed owner)
New Owner, Purchase Date: New Owner, Purchas
Executor/Administrator of Estate: N/A
Mailing Address: 153 Summit St
City, State, Zip code: Burlington VT 05401
Applicant's Email and Phone #: 802-657-3211 clare wool 2 mac. co
Location of Property: 153 Summit St Burlington, VT 05401
Parcel ID Number (000-0-000): 050-2-052.000 or,
Account Number (PPP000000): N/A business personal property (Can be found on the tax bill or property record card)
Dollar amount you are requesting abated: \$ 408.51
Circle abatement type requested: taxes penalties interest prior year delinquency other
Briefly describe your abatement request. You may submit a letter with more details of your request. ** Please see letter attached**
Signature Date $\frac{7}{24/13}$
Space below is saved for Board notes: Date received: 7-30-203
Was the NS-122 Filed with Toxes to state of VT ? did you use a Tox preparer. CPA?

To whom it may concern,

RECEIVED

I am writing as a taxpayer of The City of Burlington to appeal a one time large penalty of \$408.51. This penalty was charged on our tax bill.

The history is as follows:

I sent our HS-122 Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim form via United States Post office on March 27, 2013.

Each year we have voluntarily submitted our HD form on time and we have and continue to pay all property taxes early or on time.

Back in January I read in VT DIGGER that Legislation had passed and the HD form was now REQUIRED by all residents of the state due April 15th.

I was surprised that the City of Burlington nor the VT State Tax Dept did not send out a notice to all taxpayers of this legislative change. I felt lucky that I had read it myself on a independent website.

I wish I had know though that I could have filed it on-line as I would have done that and received an instant receipt and file #.

Therefore we were SHOCKED when we received our tax bill from the city a week ago to see that we were taxed at the NON-RESIDENTAIL tax rate.

I immediately called the State and the City offices to see why, I was told by Judy Dicoda of VT State Tax Dept that they would research and get back to me. She advised me to file online immediately to avoid any late penalties. So we did.

When I spoke to the City of Burlington clerks office they referred me back to the state. I followed up with Judy and

she said the only way to appeal the penalty was within our town gov't offices.

On record we have 3 young children, we had resided in our home for 4 years, we actively participate in supporting our city and especially the school budget. Now I am angry and frustrated. Angry because this year unlike in years past the State Dept in Montpelier is claiming they never received my in form in the mail. It was sent, dated and I have an enclosed copy I had kept in my tax binder.

This is a very large penalty of \$408.51

I am frustrated that a mistake was made either in the receipt of our form or the misplacement. Your consideration of the facts is what is important to us as taxpayers here in the City of Burlington.

Please review our history as taxpayers and residents. Please consider the truth in what we have explained and stated.

Please understand we ARE and HAVE BEEN residents of this city for the past 4 years. We have completed the Homestead Declaration form in past.

Please understand that upon notice on July 15th of receiving our tax bills we immediately question why we were charge the Non-Residential tax rate and were surprised to be told our form was not on file.

Again \$408.51 is a very large sum of money for a resident to pay.

We would appreciate your decision to appeal this large penalty.

Not receiving our form this year is upsetting to us but we cannot believe that if the state did not receive a simple form that they have in years past the consequence to the taxpayer is a fine of \$408.51.

That is a month or more worth of groceries for our family.

A late fee would seem more fair.

How is it fair to fine someone such a large amount for the late filing of a form that is due on a tax bill that is not due until August 12th?

We appreciate your time in reading this letter and hearing our appeal. It is our hope you too believe the size of this fine does not seem fair

Please contact us with any questions regarding this appeal. (802) 657-3211

Clare and Sam Wool 153 Summit St Burlington, VT 05401

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RECEIVED

BURLINGTON CLERK

From: clare wool <clarewool@mac.com>

Subject: Fwd: Burlington VT Homeowner - Wool

Date: July 24, 2013 3:10:29 PM EDT

To: Clare Wool <clarewool@mac.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: clare wool < clarewool@mac.com > Subject: Burlington VT Homeowner - Wool

Date: July 15, 2013 1:18:11 PM EDT **To:** <u>Tax.Commissioner@state.vt.us</u> **Cc:** Clare Wool <clarewool@mac.com>

Dear Tax Commissioner,

We filed our Homestead Declaration Form back in March 27, 2013 via post office.

We were VERY surprised on Friday, July 12th to receive our tax bill and it shows we are taxed at the NON-RESIDENTIAL rate.

I called the City of Burlington and then the VT Tax Dept.

How can you verify that your mail is received or be notified if it hasn't better yet. We have lived in our home since 2009 as residents.

Every year you have received our form and we have been taxed the RESIDENTIAL rate. We mailed our HS-122 form back in March 27, 2013.

I spoke to a nice woman VT Tax Dept Judy Hebert who instructed me to file the form online.

How come that was not promoted by the City as a better way of filing.

I have always download the form and sent in I thought that you always needed a hard copy.

Since you have no record and it is my word and xeroxed copies I kept for my files as proof that I mailed it in - what happens?

I would like to speak with someone ASAP. Our taxes are very high for homeowners in this State.

I was on hold for most of the day trying to get to the bottom of this, this concerns us greatly.

Please call me once you have time to read this.

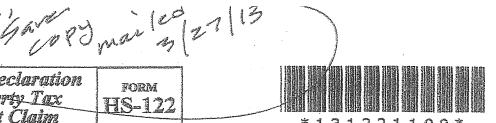
Thank you very much.



2013 VERMONT

Homestead Declaration AND Property Tax Adjustment Claim

FORM HS-122



DUE DATE: April 15, 2013 (Claims allowed up to October 15, 2013 but late filing penalties apply)

Please PRINT in BLUE or BLACK INK

This form can be filed on-line at http://lax.vermont.gov

To file a Homestead Declaration:

Please complete Section A, sign the back and send to the Department.

To file a Property Tax Adjustment Claim:

Please complete Section A and Section B, sign and send to the Department together with a completed HI-144 Household Income Schedule. You will not receive a Property Tax Adjustment unless you file a Homestead Declaration, a Property Tax Adjustment Claim, and a Household Income schedule no later than October 15, 2013.

ANNUAL Vermont Homestead Declaration

SECTION A.

This form must be filed EACH YEAR by ALL VT residents who own and occupy aben ton si tnamtsuibe vet viranore rot miels e il nave i livel, no bestsamod TV e

a VT homestead on April 1 even if a claim for property tax adjustment is not made.	Gallery and an analysis of the state of the
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Comments Vool Norm Voseph Spouser CUPether Uset Norm Voseph Norm Clave Mailing Address	m K
(Number and Street) Read or FO Box) 153 Summit St	
Burlington VT = VT com 05401	
Location of IS3 Summit St Burlington V7 At. VT School District Code A2 City/Town of Legal Residence on 04/01/2013	V7" State
A3. SPAN Number 11H -035 - 1799 H (From your 2012/2013 properly tex bill)	
A4. Business Use of Dwelling	.00%
A.S. Rental Use of Dwelling	,00%
A6. Business or Rental Use of Improvements or Other Buildings Not including the dwelling, are improvements or other buildings located on your parcel used for business or rented?	No
A7 - A10 Special Situations (see instructions for more information). Check the following if it applies:	
A7. Grantor and sole beneficiary of a revocable trust owning the property.	10
Ais. Life estate holder of the property.	A C
A9. Homestead property crosses town boundaries. (File a declaration for each town.)	* * *
A10. Residing in a dwelling owned by a related farmer.	
HOUSE THE THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	
If you will not be filing a Property Tax Adjustment Claim, please sign the back of this return.	

If you will be filing a Property Tax Adjustment Claim, continue on to complete Section B.

Form HS-122, page 2 of 2

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131221200

KÓPERTY TAX ADJÚSTMENT CLAIM Section 8. For Household Income up to approx. \$99,000. Attach Schedule HI-144 ALL eligibility questions must be answered. You must own and occupy the property as your home on April 1, 2013. B1. Were you domiciled in VT all of calendar year 2012? Yes, Go to Line B2. No, STOP B2. Were you claimed as a dependent in 2012 by another taxpayer? Yes, STOP No, Go to Line B3. B3. Do you anticipate selling your VT housesite on or before April 1, 2013? . . Yes, STOP No. CONTINUE Amounts for Lines 34 - 56 are found on your 2012/2013 property tax bill. Round amounts to the nearest dollar, 00 ATACH REQUIRED SCHEDULE HI-144 00 B6. Housesite Municipal Tax. B6. 0% B7. B7. Ownership Interest 00 B8a. If AMENDED SCHEDULE HI-144, Household Income, is attached, check here. Complete the following ONLY if applicable. See instructions on page 41 for details. o o OR Allocated Property Tax from Land Trust, Cooperative, or Nonprofit Mobile Home Park B10. Allocated Education Tax. B10. OR Property Tax from contiguous property if housesite has less than 2 acres (see instructions). 00 00 MAXIMUM ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT IS \$8,000. Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct and complete. Preparers cannot use return information for purposes other than preparing returns. Telephone Number Signature ---Signature. (f a jóint reium, 30TH must sion. Check here if authorizing the VT Department of Taxes to discuss this return and attachments with your preparer. Preparer's Date Preparer's signature SSN or PTIN Preparer's **Use Only** Firm's name (or yours if self-employed) and address Preparer's Telephone Number

Mail to: VT Department of Taxes
PO Box 1881
Monmelier, VT 05601-1881

149 CHURCH STREET **BURLINGTON VERMONT 05401**

802 - 865 - 7000

Location: 153 SUMMIT ST

This is the only bill you will receive. Please forward to new owner if property is sold.

PARCEL ID	BILL DATE	TAX YEAR
050-2-052.000	07/01/2013	2013-2014

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SPAN # 114-035-17994

AOU SESTIF TAZINIERWATION SCL CODE: 035

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BURLINGTON VT 05401

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For more information about how education tax rates are determined, go online to: www.state.vt.us/tax/pvredtaxrates.shtml

OUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR STATE PAYMENT (PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT) OR HOMESTEAD DECLARATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE STATE OF VERMONT TAX DEPT. AT 866-828-2865 (TOLL FREE IN STATE) OR 802-828-2865 (LOCAL OR OUT

OF STATE).

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GRAND LIST VALUES

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3RD PAYMENT 03/12/2014 4TH PAYMENT 06/12/2014 5274.45

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2013-2014

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CITY OF BURLINGTON TAX YEAR

2013-2014

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CITY OF BURLINGTON TAX YEAR 2013-2014

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CITY OF BURLINGTON TAX YEAR 2013-2014

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149 CHURCH STREET **BURLINGTON VERMONT 05401**

802 - 865 - 7000

Location: 153 SUMMIT ST

This is the only bill you will receive. Please forward to new owner if property is sold.

PARCEL ID	BILL DATE	TAX YEAR
	07/23/2013	2013-2014

OWNER

WOOL JOSEPH S WOOL CLARE K 153 SUMMIT ST BURLINGTON VT 05401

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HOUSESITE MUNICIPAL TAX

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HOUSESITE TOTAL TAX

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For more information about how education tax rates are determined, go online to: www.state.vt.us/tax/pvredtaxrates.shtml

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Revised

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DETACH THE STUBBELOW AND REFURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT

CITY OF BURLINGTON 2013-2014 TAX YEAR

CITY OF BURLINGTON TAX YEAR

2013-2014

CITY OF BURLINGTON 2013-2014 TAX YEAR

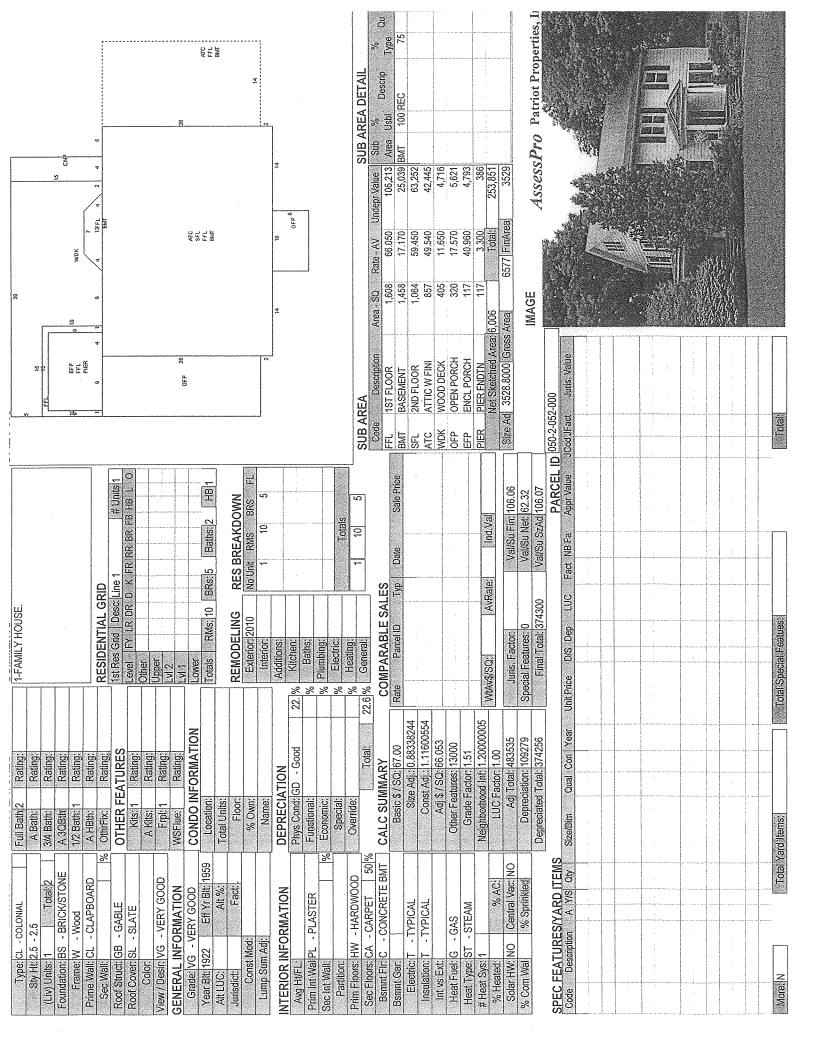
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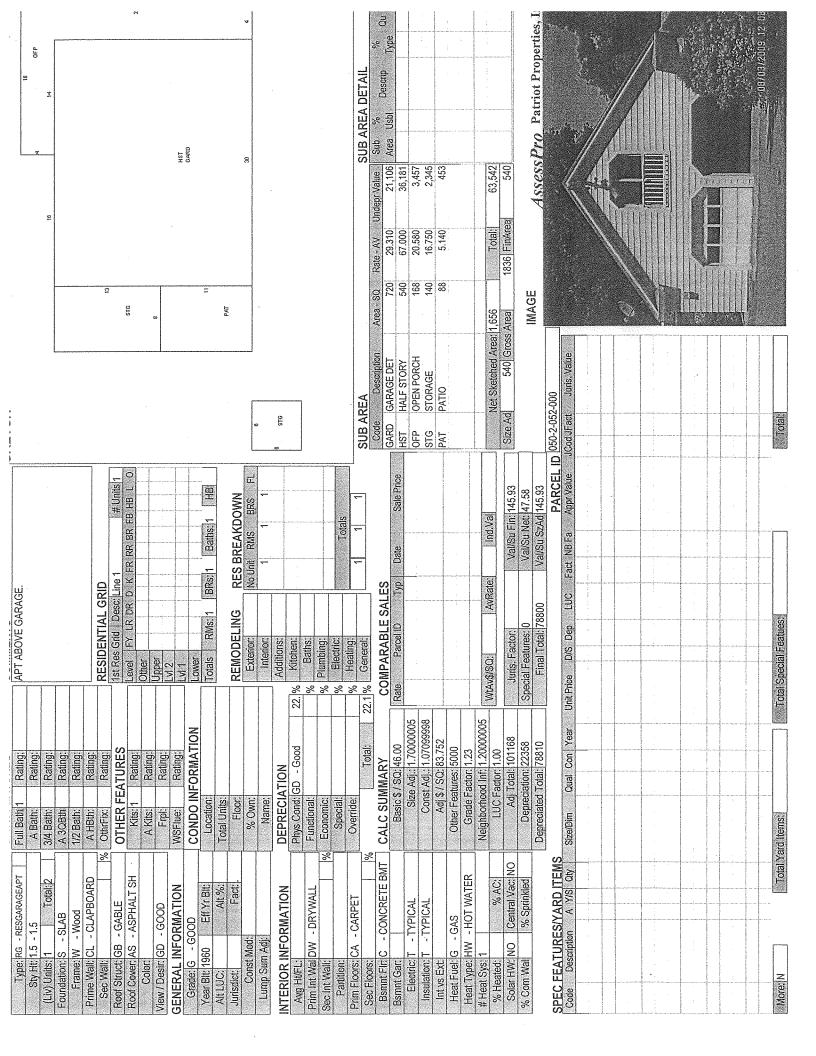
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MAP	PROPERTY LOCATION	153	OWNERSHIP Owner 1: WOOL JOSEPH S	Owner 2: WOOL CLARE K	Street 1: 153 SUMMIT ST	Twin/City: Burlington	St/Prov: VT Postal: 05401	PREVIOUS OWNER	Owner 1:	Street 1:	Twn/City:	Surriov. Postal:	NARRATIVE	This Parcel conta	Single Fam with	1960, Having Pri SH Roof Cover. v	1 Rooms Total, and 1 Bdrms. OTHER ASSESSMENTS	Code Desc		:		Item Code	i o	u u	Census:		SH	t	LAND SECTION OF THE PROPERTY O	Code Description	R1 Single Fam	1		Total AC/HA:	ייטו וומט שמוייטו



John Vickery

From:

Jeffrey A. Herwood

Sent:

Tuesday, September 03, 2013 4:21 PM

To:

John Vickery

Subject:

FW: Homestead declarations

Importance:

High

From: Spellman, Maribeth [mailto:Maribeth.Spellman@state.vt.us]

Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 4:17 PM

To: Jeffrey A. Herwood **Cc:** Kaigle, Aaron

Subject: Homestead declarations

Mr. Herwood.

Good afternoon. My colleague Aaron Kaigle informed me you were looking for information regarding efforts made by the Department of Taxes to publicize the changes to the homestead declaration filing timelines. Here is a list of the initiatives taken to date.

The Commissioner, Mary Peterson, participated in the following media interviews:

Jan. 14: WCAX:30 Show

Jan. 22: VPR

Michael Costa, my predecessor, participated in the following media interviews:

Feb. 4-WDEV

Feb. 4—WTSA

Feb. 6-WVMT

April 1-WSTJ

A Press release (sent Jan. 31, also posted on the Department's website), was run by the following media outlets:

Barre Times Argus

Fox 44

ABC 22

Manchester Journal

vtdigger.com

Rutland Herald

WCAX

Brattleboro Reformer

Boston.com (AP)

VPR

The Commons

Our Education and Outreach staff attended numerous events, during which they talked to Vermonters and gave out fact sheets on the homestead declaration.

In late February and early March, the Department sent letters, fact sheets, and posters to all clerks/treasurers and to many community organizations including community action councils, agencies on aging, and legal aid offices. Clerks and

Treasurers were asked to help notify homeowners, especially at Town Meeting, and were able to order more copies. Specifically, Burlington was sent 50 fact sheets and 12 posters.

All income tax booklets (which are available electronically on the website) had instructions that the homestead declaration was annual, this was also clearly written on the cover.

A letter was sent individually to 14,914 Vermonters (around August 8) that the Department believed may need to file a homestead declaration or property tax adjustment and had not yet done so.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely, Maribeth

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