This item is exactly what it says it is, a water pump. These units come in various sizes and shapes depending on the flow, pressure, and manufacturer of the unit. Gould makes a unit that looks identical to this unit. In fact, most parts are interchangeable.

You can use them to pump or transfer a number of different fluids. Dependent upon what you are pumping the pumps come in cast and stainless steel with impellers of the same composition or titanium also.

The seal configuration may also be different dependent upon fluid and pressure. Seals can be a lip seal, packing seal, or mechanical seal. Two pumps of the same size and manufacture can greatly differ in price if one is cast steel and one is stainless steel.